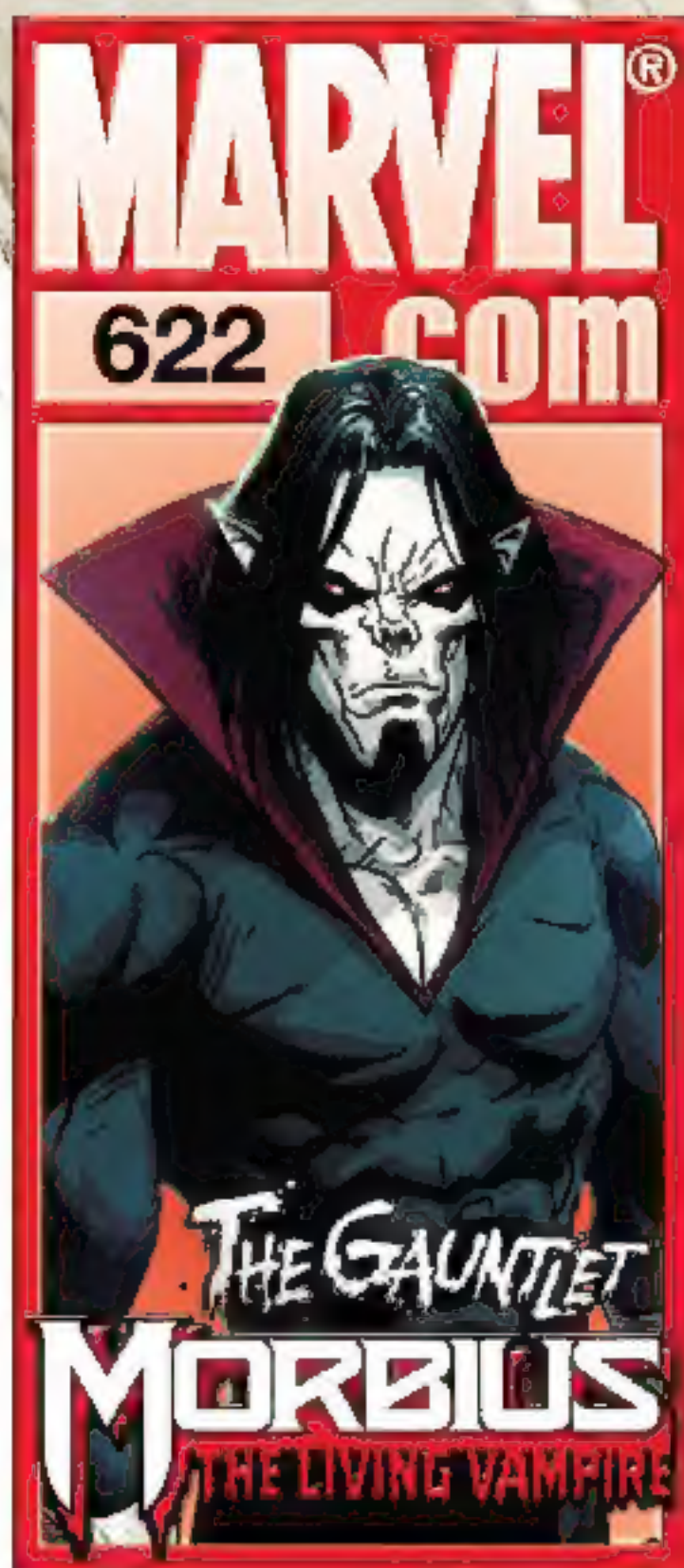




the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

VAN LENTE
WEISMAN
ROSS
QUINONES



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FLASH THOMPSON REMAINS NEW YORK'S MOST POPULAR BACHELOR AND HERO – but how does the injured veteran feel to be at home – away from the action and alone in his daily struggle? [more...](#)



IS MR. NEGATIVE'S GRIP ON CHINATOWN SLIPPING? Between Spider-Man's renewed efforts to foil Mr. Negative's operations and Martin Li's do-gooder spirit influencing the community, the man in black may be on his way out! [more...](#)

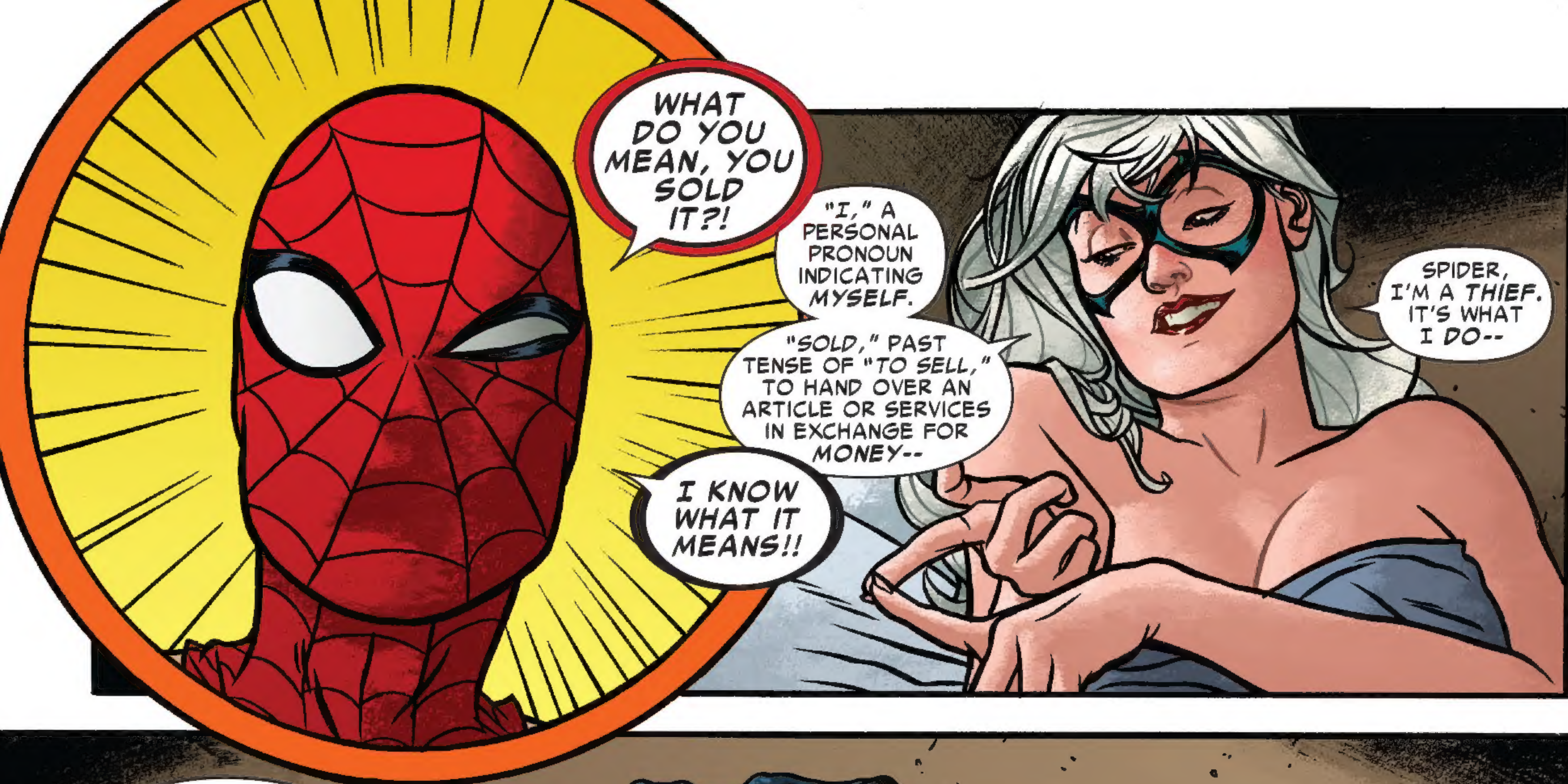


THE CITY'S MOST LITERALLY-NAMED CAT BURGLAR SPOTTED OUTSIDE GRACIE'S MANSION – the New York City Mayor's residence! Why was she there? Reports may surprise... [more...](#)



Michael Morbius, the Greek biochemist whose experiments to cure himself of a rare blood disease left him infected with vampirism, has long had his history intertwined with the Amazing Spider-Man -- as both adversaries and uneasy allies. Although he is a vampire affected with blood lust, Morbius's humanity has stayed true and he's managed to (mostly) hold to a noble course, defending so-called Monsters in society.

But you know what vampires like a lot? Blood. And Spidey recently had a whole bunch of his stolen by the enigmatic Mr. Negative, a crime lord empowered by the dark force. The blood was put into Negative's signature weapon -- the Devil's Breath, a gas which, when encoded with DNA from blood samples -- can kill anyone of that DNA's blood line. With the help of his colleague-with-benefits, Black Cat, Spidey rescued his blood sample from Negative's grasp. His strictly masks-on relationship with Black Cat has gotten progressively complicated. While she's often opposing the forces of greed and corruption, she's a thief -- something Spidey's conscience can't abide. And his growing attraction to his friend, CSI sleuth Carlie Cooper, could put his dual identity in some tricky spots...



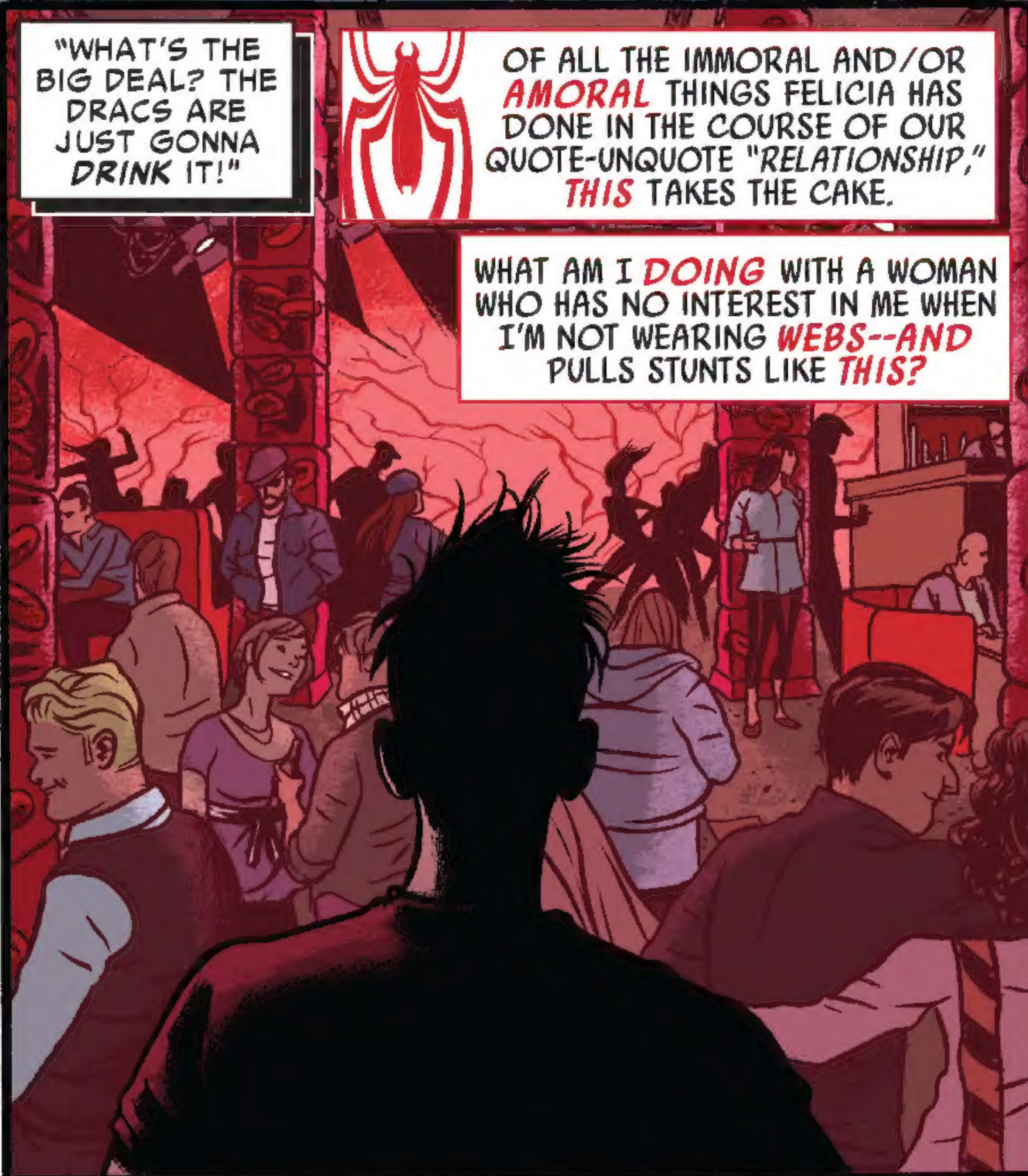
CLIFFS
NOTES OF
LAST ISH.
--"GET
TO THE
STORY"
STEVE



"IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A *BABY* ABOUT IT, YOU CAN TRY BUYING IT BACK.

"I SOLD IT TO HARMLESS UNDEAD WANNABES-- '*DRACS*' THEY'RE CALLED ON THE CLUB CIRCUIT.

"THEY RAID CELEBRITY BLOOD DRIVES, BLOOD BANKS IN THE 90210 AREA CODE, THAT KIND OF THING, TO GET THEIR HANDS ON A-LIST PLASMA...

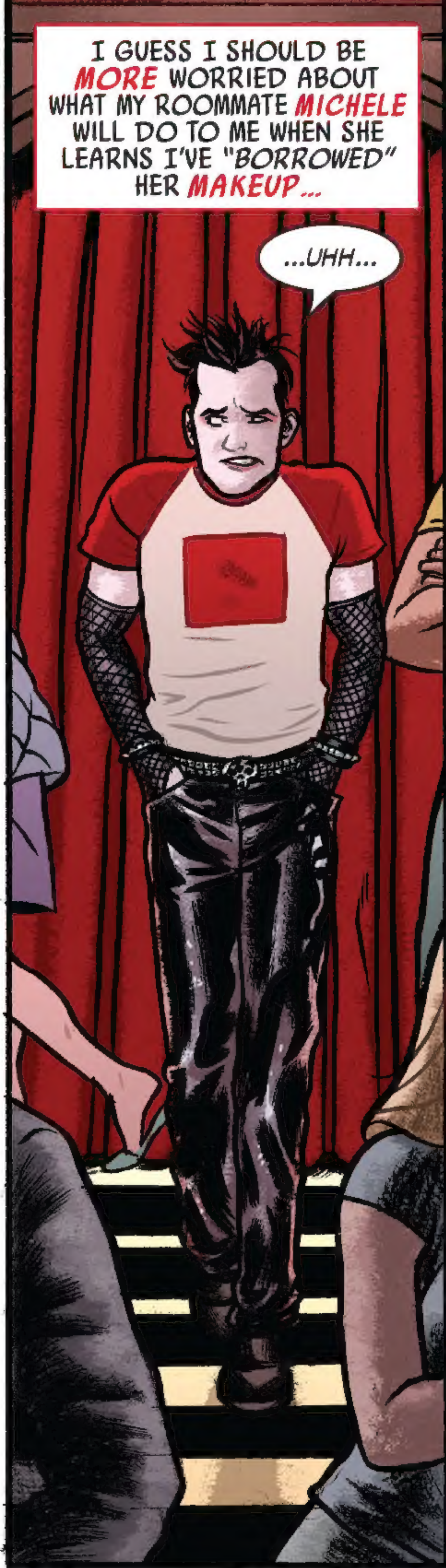


"WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THE *DRACS* ARE JUST GONNA DRINK IT!"



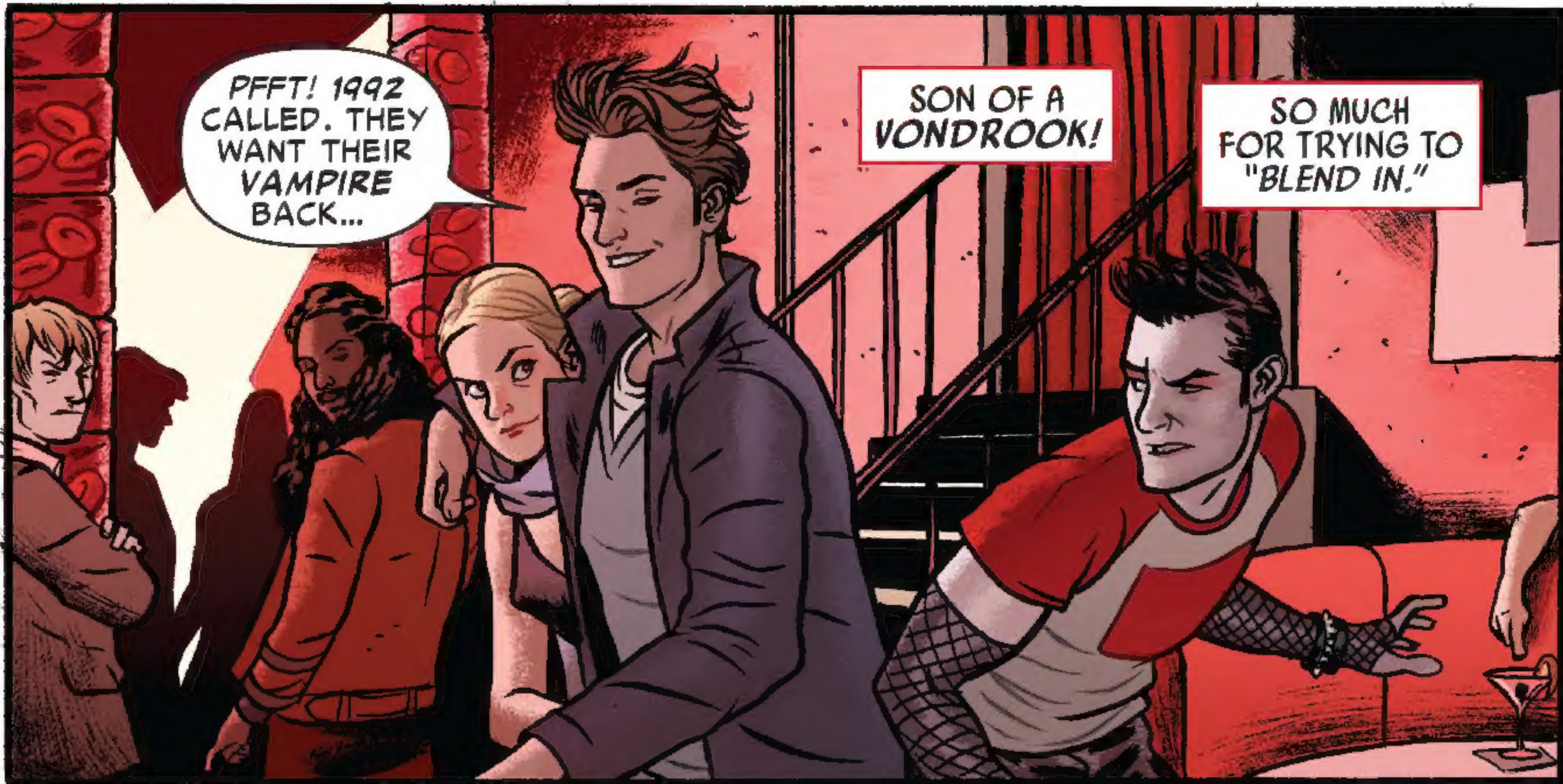
OF ALL THE IMMORAL AND/OR *AMORAL* THINGS FELICIA HAS DONE IN THE COURSE OF OUR QUOTE-UNQUOTE "*RELATIONSHIP*," *THIS* TAKES THE CAKE.

WHAT AM I *DOING* WITH A WOMAN WHO HAS NO INTEREST IN ME WHEN I'M NOT WEARING *WEBS*--AND PULLS STUNTS LIKE *THIS*?



I GUESS I SHOULD BE **MORE** WORRIED ABOUT WHAT MY ROOMMATE **MICHELE** WILL DO TO ME WHEN SHE LEARNS I'VE "BORROWED" HER **MAKEUP**...

...UHH...



PFFT! 1992 CALLED. THEY WANT THEIR **VAMPIRE** BACK...

SON OF A **VONDROOK!**

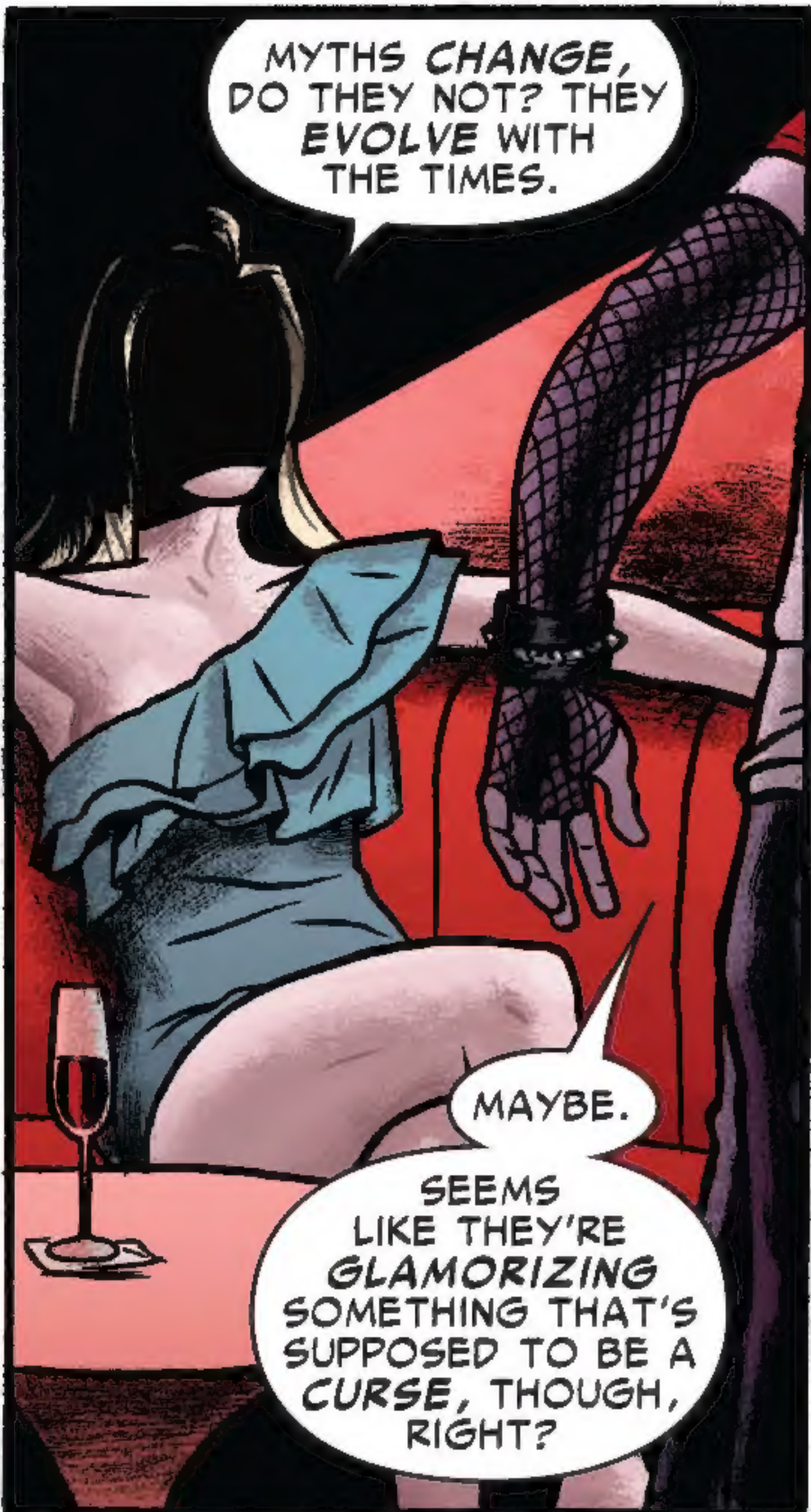
SO MUCH FOR TRYING TO "BLEND IN."



WOW, THE DEFINITION OF "UNDEAD" REALLY **HAS** CHANGED SINCE THE LAST TIME I PAID ATTENTION...

...THESE LOOK LIKE THE **COOL KIDS** FLASH THOMPSON & LIZ ALLAN WOULD SIT WITH IN THE MIDTOWN HIGH CAFETERIA...

IS THAT GLITTER?



MYTHS CHANGE, DO THEY NOT? THEY **EVOLVE** WITH THE TIMES.

MAYBE.

SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE **GLAMORIZING** SOMETHING THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A **CURSE**, THOUGH, RIGHT?

A CURSE MUST ALSO BE **ATTRACTIVE**, YES? OTHERWISE...

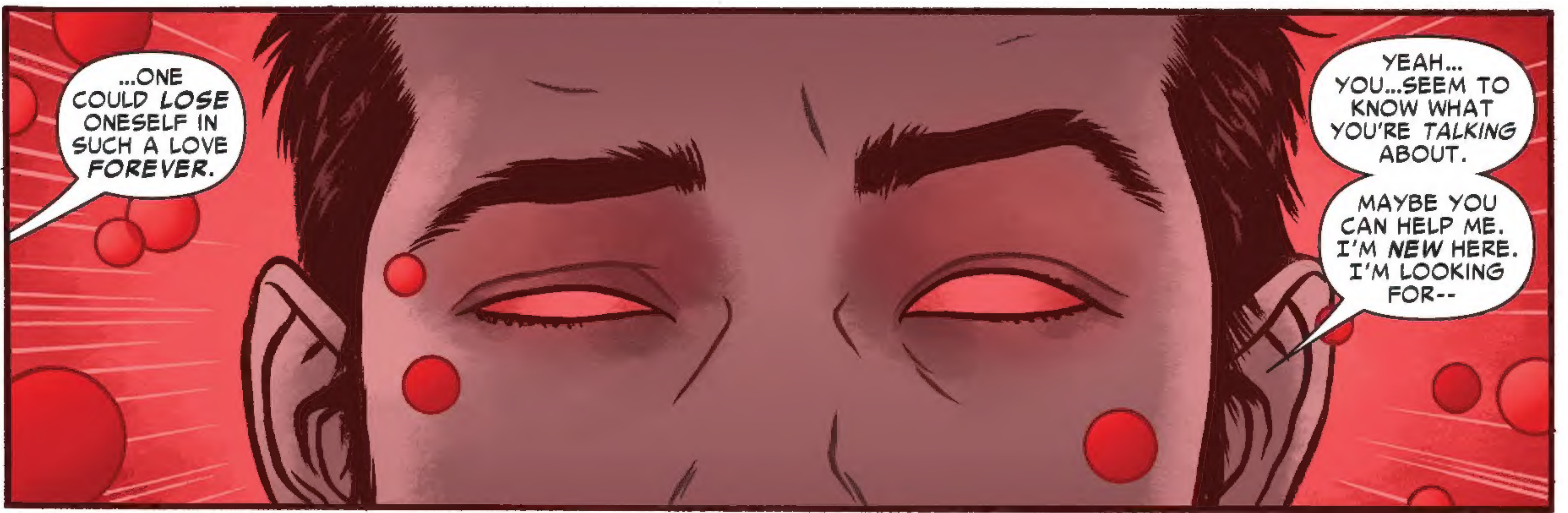


...WHO WOULD **AFFLICT** THEMSELVES WITH IT?



TO BE ASSURED OF A LOVE THAT WILL NEVER FADE...

NEVER AGE...



...ONE
COULD LOSE
ONESELF IN
SUCH A LOVE
FOREVER.

YEAH...
YOU...SEEM TO
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT.

MAYBE YOU
CAN HELP ME.
I'M NEW HERE.
I'M LOOKING
FOR--



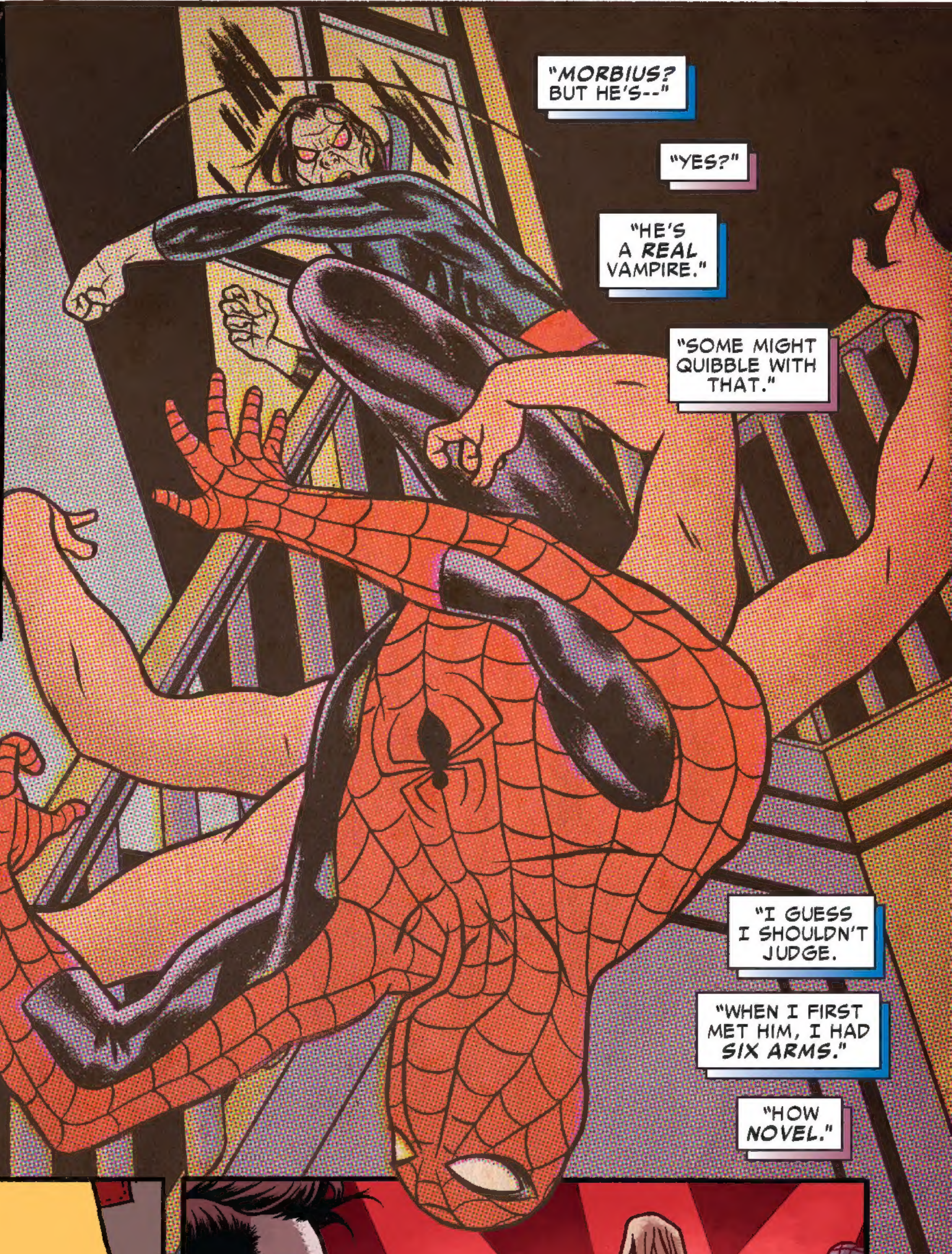
A VIAL OF YOUR
BLOOD. I CAN
SEE IT IN YOUR
MIND.

YES.
THAT'S
RIGHT.

I KNOW
WHO HAS
IT.

WHO?
TELL ME.

HIS NAME
IS MICHAEL
MORBIUS.



"MORBIUS?
BUT HE'S--"

"YES?"

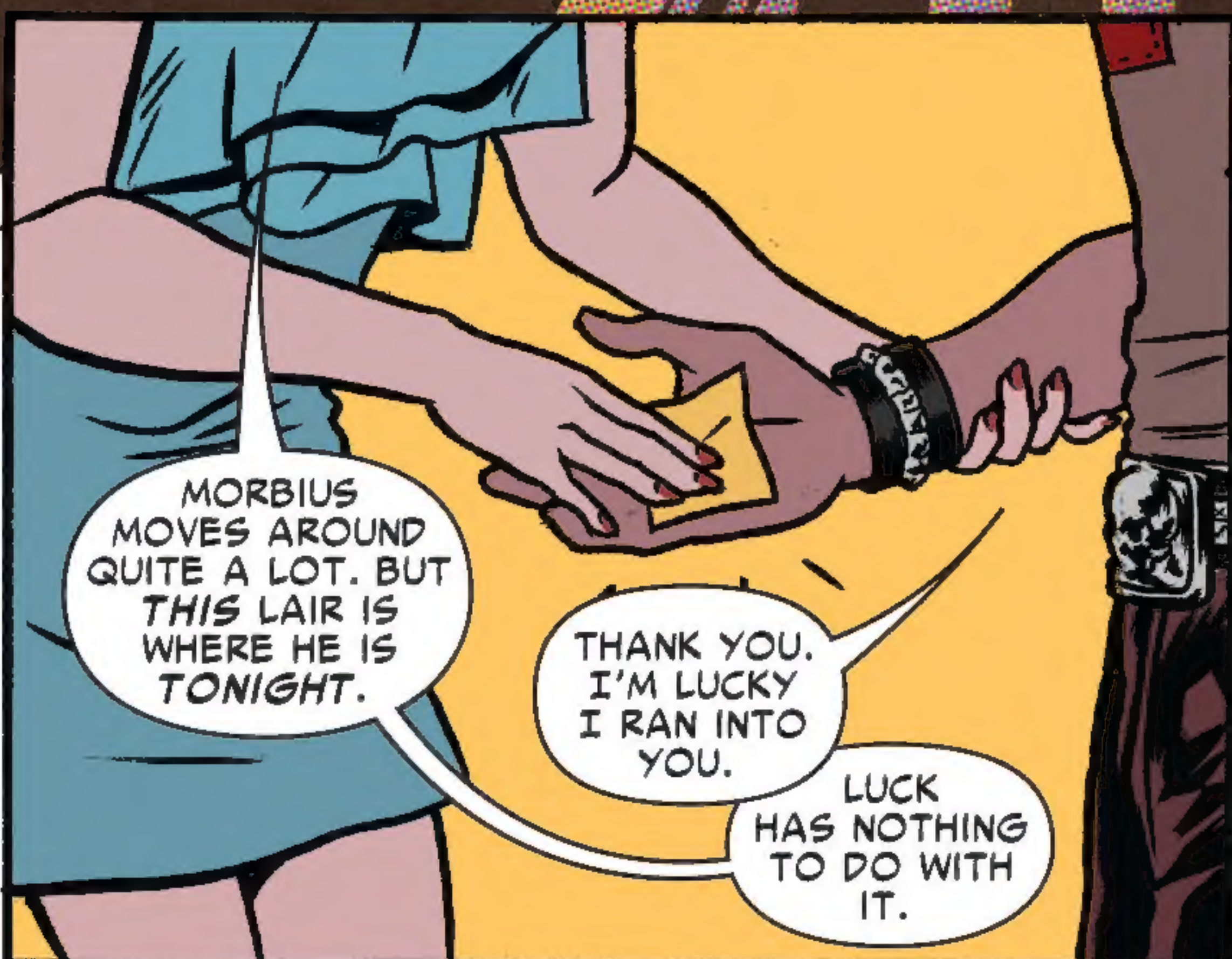
"HE'S
A REAL
VAMPIRE."

"SOME MIGHT
QUIBBLE WITH
THAT."

"I GUESS
I SHOULDN'T
JUDGE."

"WHEN I FIRST
MET HIM, I HAD
SIX ARMS."

"HOW
NOVEL."



MORBIUS
MOVES AROUND
QUITE A LOT. BUT
THIS LAIR IS
WHERE HE IS
TONIGHT.

THANK YOU.
I'M LUCKY
I RAN INTO
YOU.

LUCK
HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH
IT.

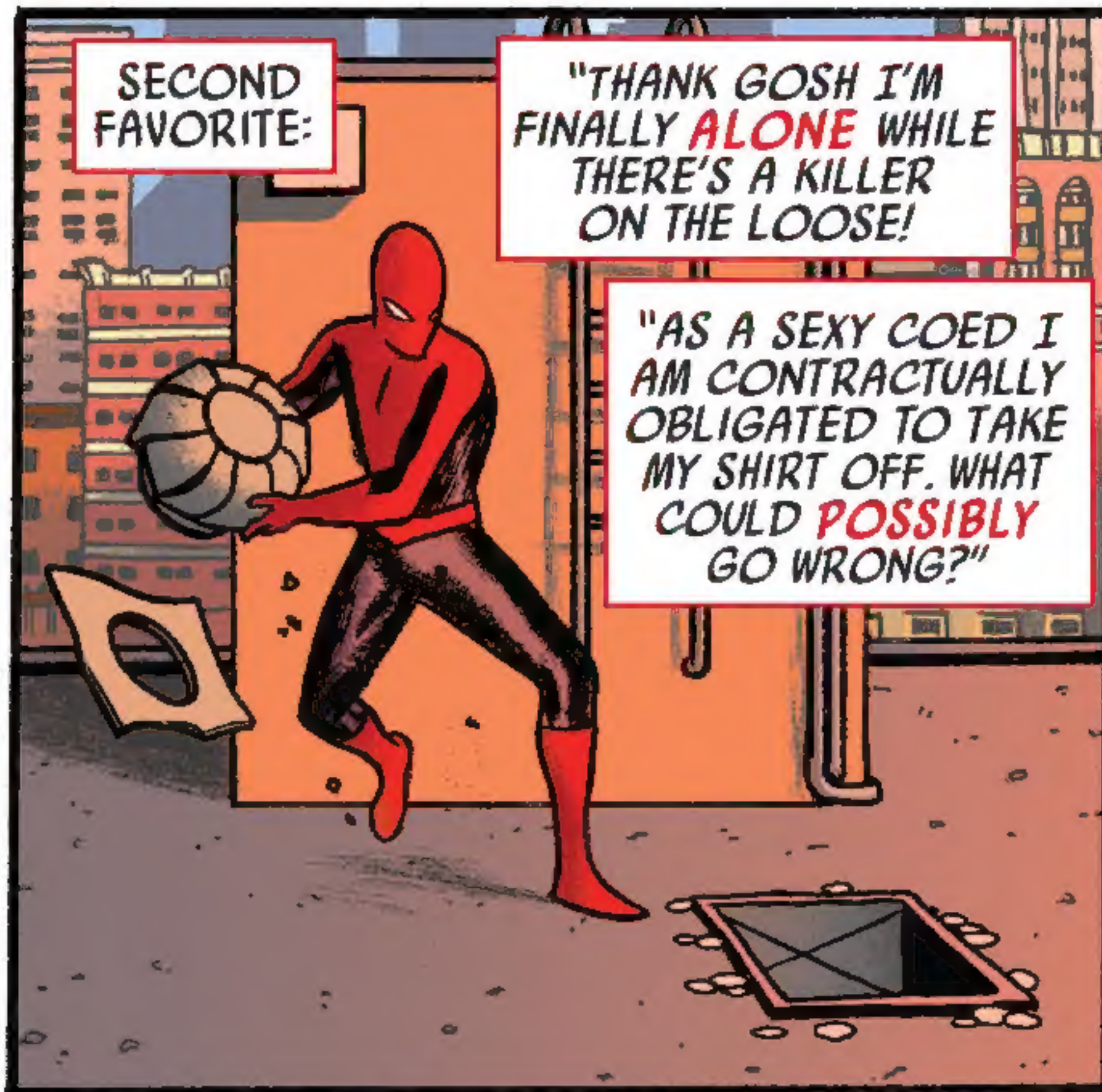


YOU ARE
THE ONE I'VE
BEEN WAITING
FOR...



I ALWAYS LOVE IN HORROR MOVIES HOW THEY'RE, LIKE,

"IT'S MIDNIGHT AND PITCH-BLACK OUTSIDE! LET'S GO TO THE SPOOKY CREATURE'S HIDEOUT NOW!"



SECOND FAVORITE:

"THANK GOSH I'M FINALLY **ALONE** WHILE THERE'S A KILLER ON THE LOOSE!"

"AS A SEXY COED I AM CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED TO TAKE MY SHIRT OFF. WHAT COULD **POSSIBLY** GO WRONG?"



(WHAT'S WITH THE **CRACKERS?** MORBIE FEEDING PIGEONS?)



ANYWAY, MAY PARKER DIDN'T RAISE NO DUMMIES.

IF I HAVE TO PENETRATE MORBIUS'S TERRIFYING...UH...

...FREE CLINIC FOR THE POOR...



...OF **DEATH**...

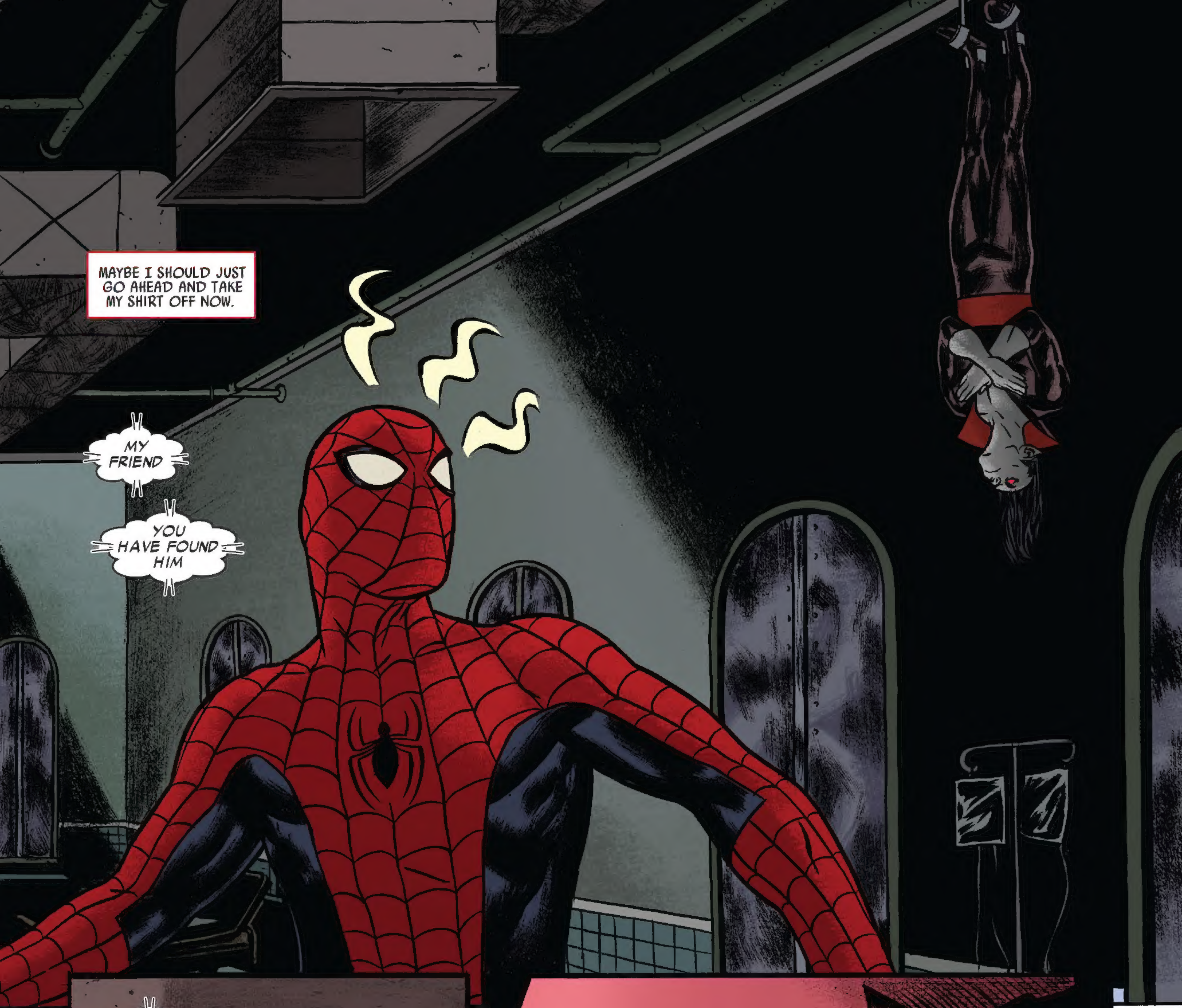
...IT'S GOING TO BE AT THE HEIGHT OF **MORNING RUSH HOUR!**



KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK K

AND THERE GO THE LIGHTS.

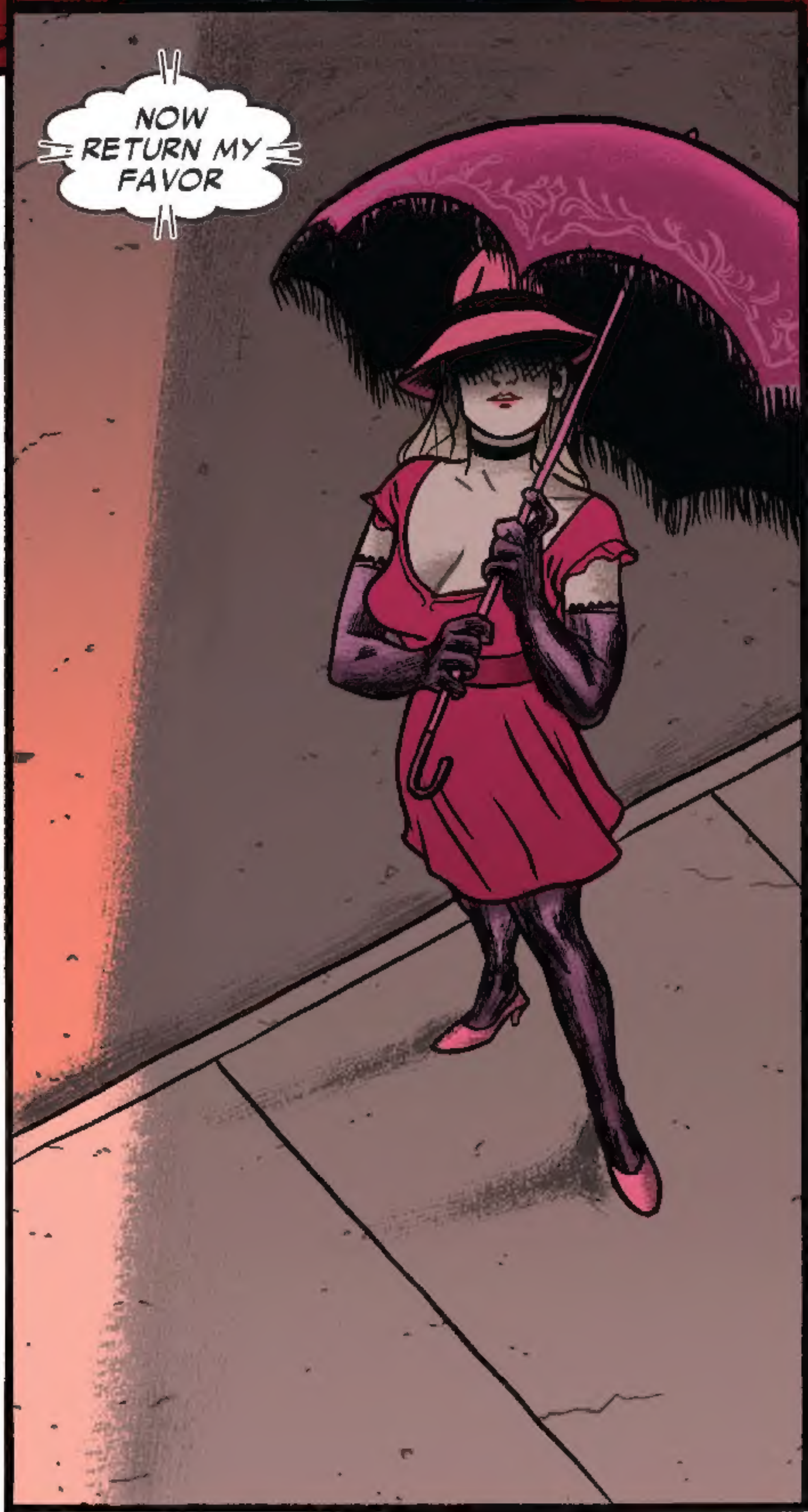
OKAY, SO AUNT MAY RAISED HALF A DUMMY.



MAYBE I SHOULD JUST
GO AHEAD AND TAKE
MY SHIRT OFF NOW.

MY
FRIEND

YOU
HAVE FOUND
HIM

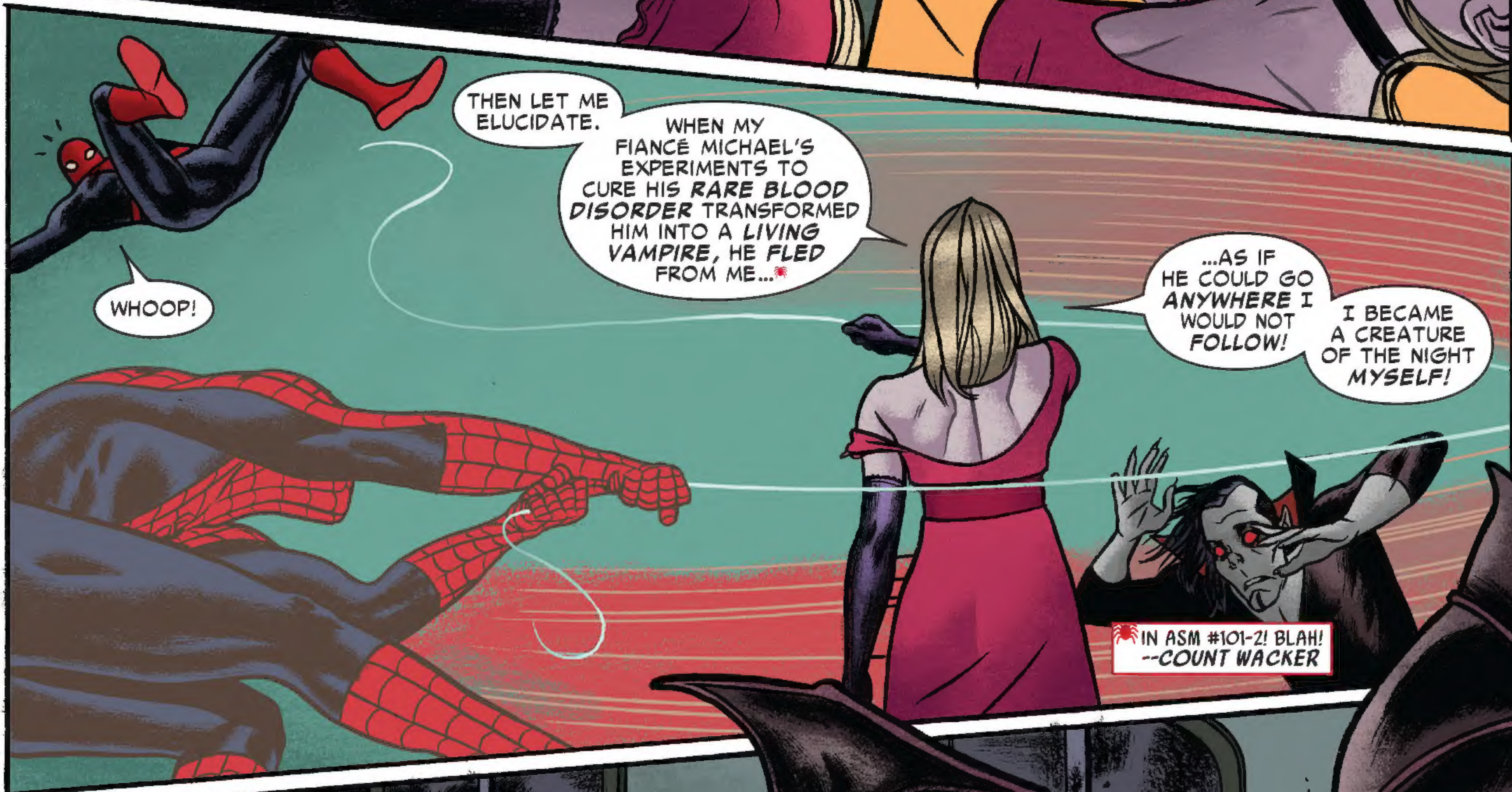
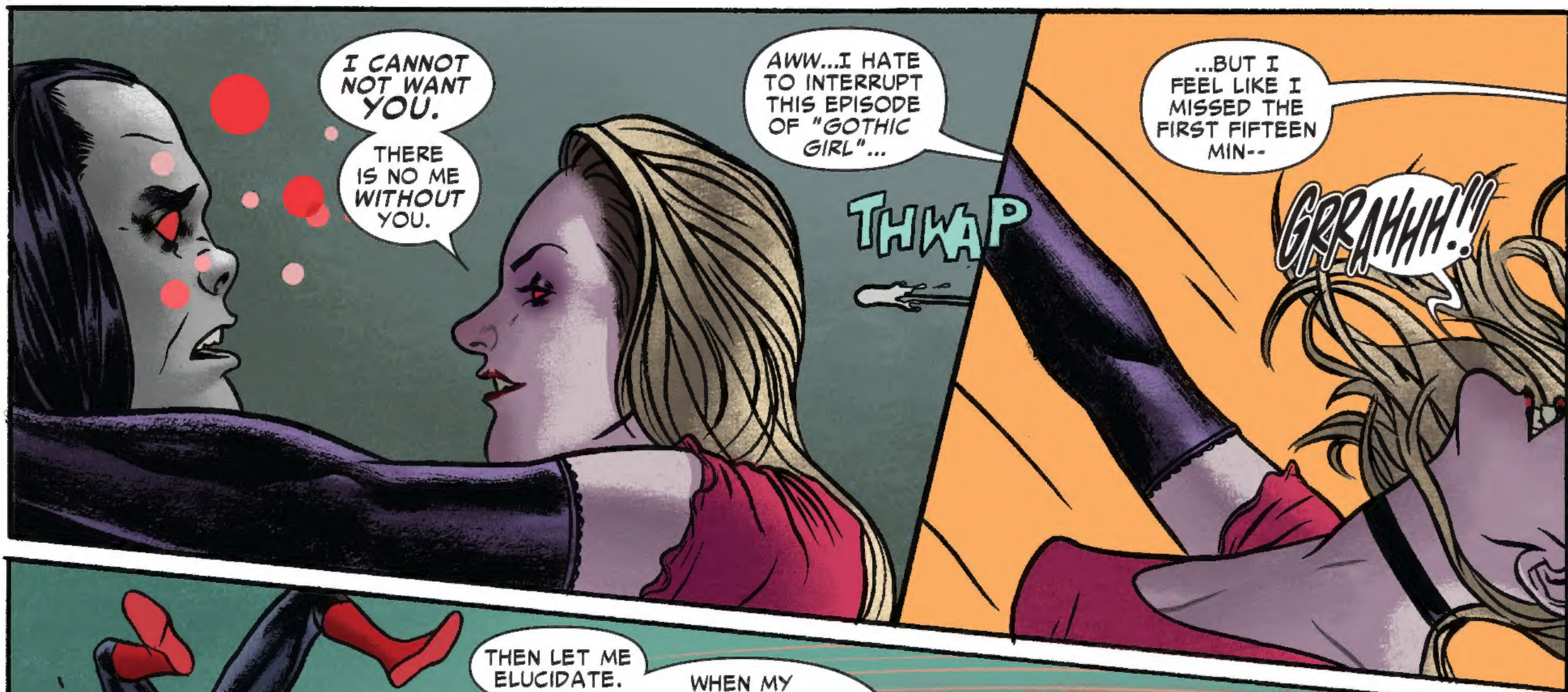


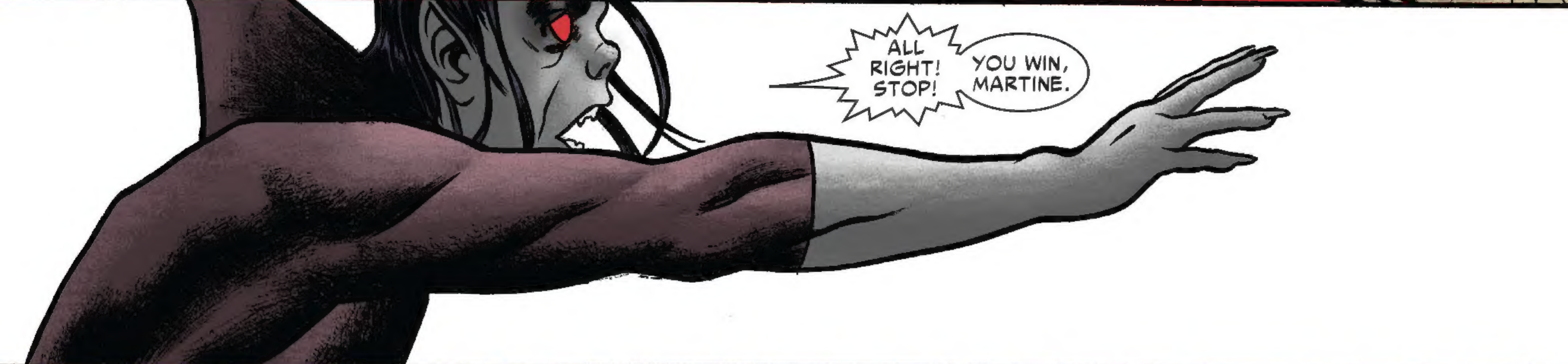
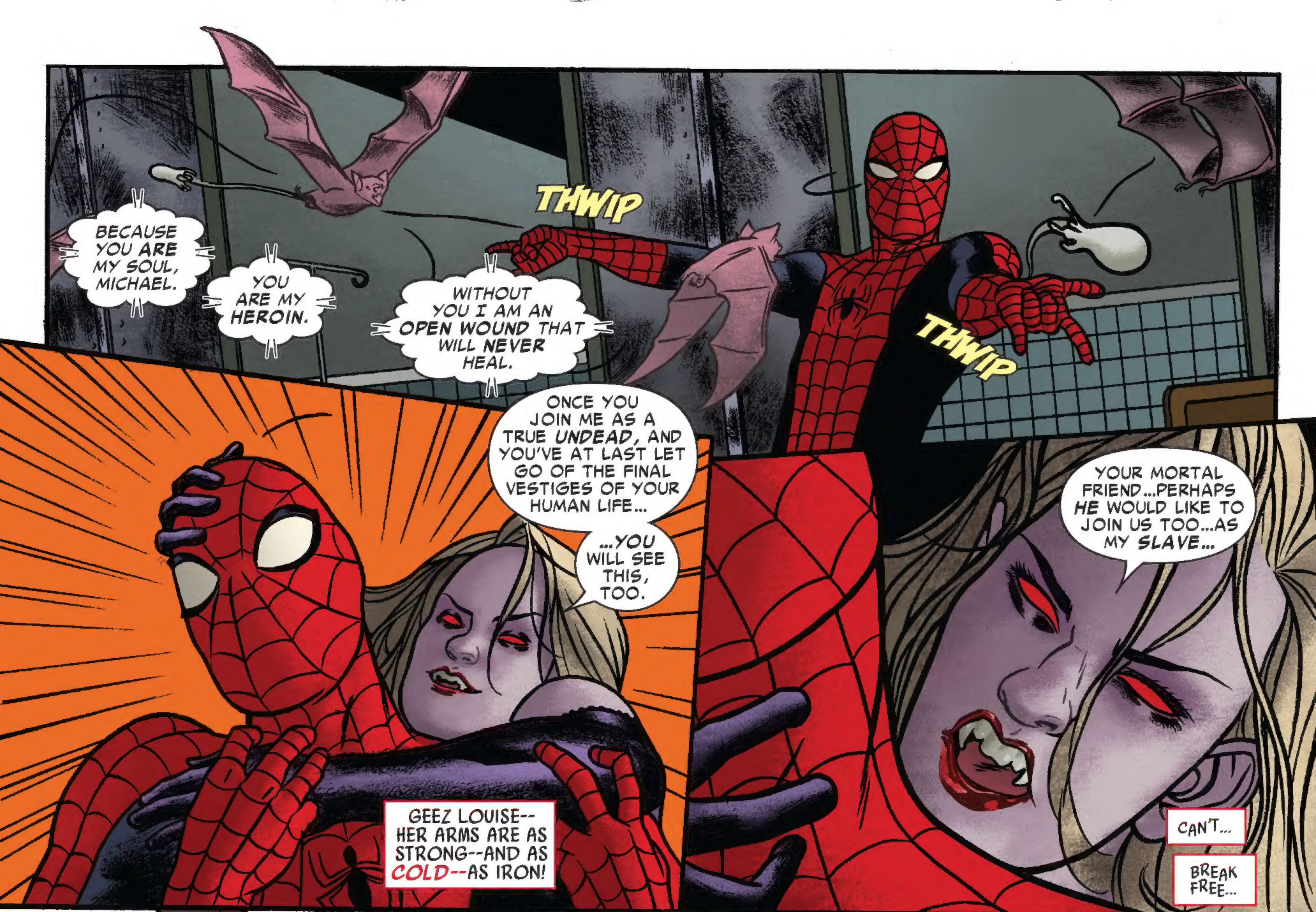
NOW
RETURN MY
FAVOR

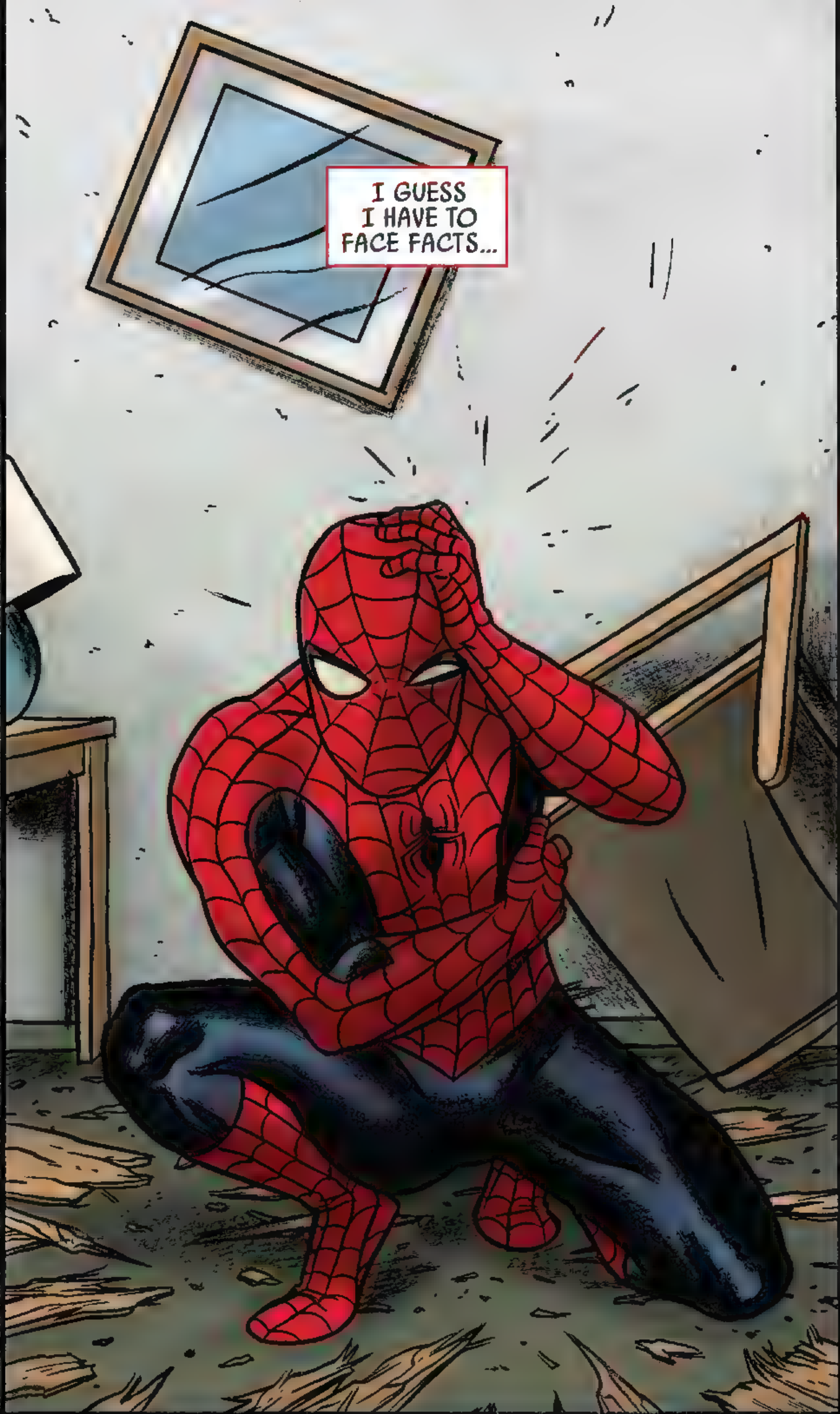


AND
INVITE
ME IN









I GUESS
I HAVE TO
FACE FACTS...



THERE'S **ONE**
WAY TO **END** THIS
PERMANENTLY...

...BUT...



...THAT USED TO BE
A LIVING, BREATHING
HUMAN BEING
OUT THERE.



AND EVER SINCE **UNCLE BEN**,
I SWORE THAT IF SPIDER-MAN
WAS ANYTHING...

...HE WAS SOMEONE
WHO DIDN'T LET
PEOPLE DIE.



SO COLD...
SO HARD...SO
BEAUTIFUL.

YOU WILL
TAKE CARE OF ME
FOREVER, WON'T
YOU, MICHAEL?



YES,
MARTINE...

I...I DON'T
THINK I CAN
DO THIS.

I'M SORRY,
MORBIUS...





...FOREVER.

SHUKK

NNEEEY YAAAAHHH!

NO!!

ZWOK

NO...



WE
COULD HAVE--
CAPTURED
HER--

WE COULD
HAVE FOUND
ANOTHER
WAY--



NO. WE
COULDN'T.

MARTINE
DIED A LONG
TIME AGO.

I--
WE--JUST
HASTENED
HER WAY
HOME.



YOUR
WORLD...AND
MINE...DON'T
EASILY MIX,
SPIDER-MAN.

ONE WITH
MY...CONDITION...
CANNOT ENJOY
THE LUXURY OF
YOUR MORAL
CLARITY.

SHE
MANIPULATED
MY MIND...GOT
ME TO INVITE
HER IN HERE...

HOW
COULD I
EVEN DO
THAT...?



BLOOD
IS ALL TO
THESE
CREATURES.

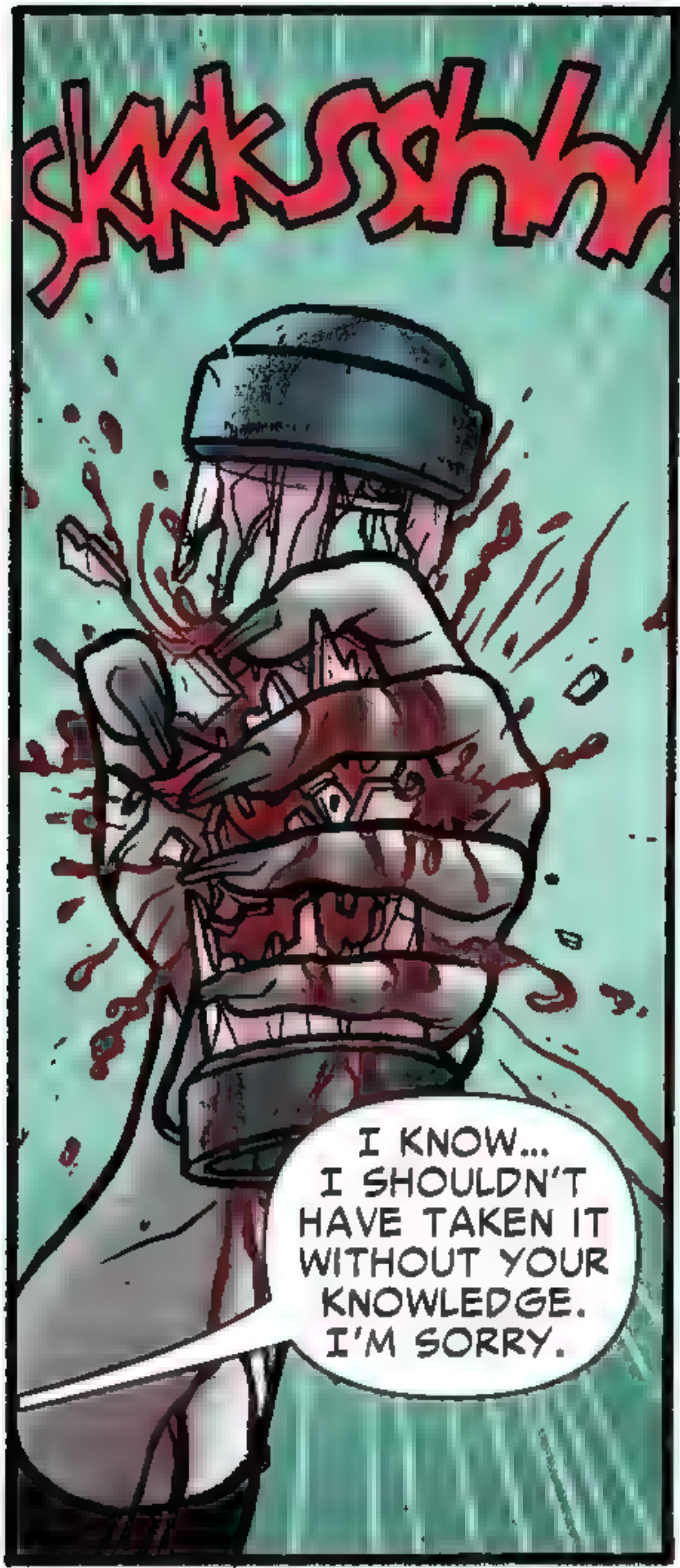
I IMAGINE
THE VIAL OF
YOURS I BOUGHT
OFF THE DRACS
QUALIFIED YOU AS
A "RESIDENT"
FOR HER RITUAL
NEEDS.



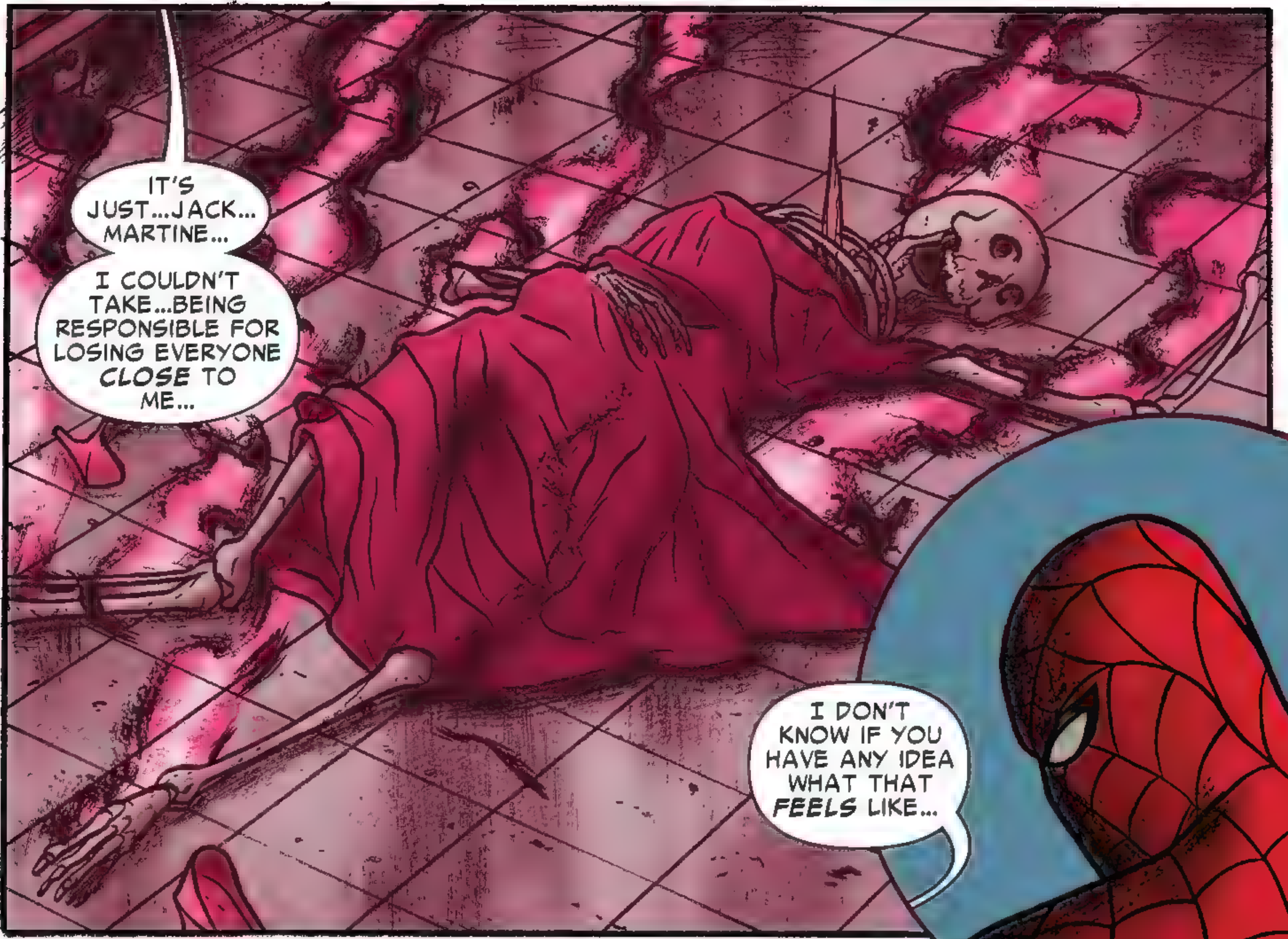
"I'M TRYING TO DEVELOP A CURE
FOR THE UNDEAD PLAGUE THAT'S
INFECTED MY BEST FRIEND
JACK RUSSELL.

"AND I CAN'T TURN ON
THE NEWS WITHOUT
SEEING YOU GETTING
POUNDED INTO
HAMBURGER.

"I THOUGHT YOUR
BLOOD MIGHT HAVE
USEFUL HEALING
PROPERTIES."



I KNOW...
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE TAKEN IT
WITHOUT YOUR
KNOWLEDGE.
I'M SORRY.



IT'S
JUST...JACK...
MARTINE...
I COULDN'T
TAKE...BEING
RESPONSIBLE FOR
LOSING EVERYONE
CLOSE TO
ME...

I DON'T
KNOW IF YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA
WHAT THAT
FEELS LIKE...



ONLY IN
THE SENSE
THAT IT'S THE
STORY OF
MY LIFE.



LET'S GET
THIS OVER
WITH QUICK,
HUH?

I GET
WOOZY
AROUND
NEEDLES.



IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

I HAVE
APPLE
JUICE.

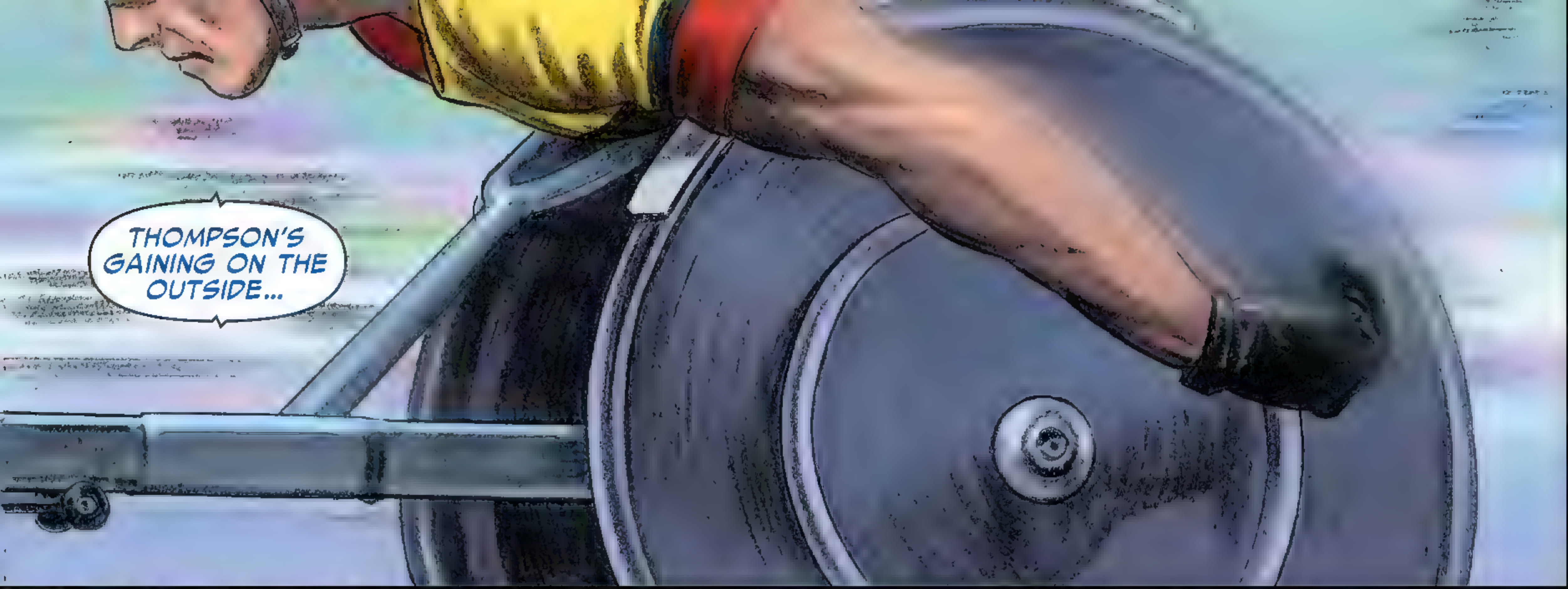
IT IS THE LIFE

FRED VAN LENTE
WRITER

JOE QUINONES
ARTIST

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

Only be sure that you do not eat the blood;
for the blood is the life, and you shall
not eat the life with the flesh...
— Deuteronomy 12:23



THOMPSON'S
GAINING ON THE
OUTSIDE...



...AND
FLASH
THOMPSON
WINS!!!

GO,
FLASH!

ALL
RIGHT,
FLASH!!!

HE DID
IT! HE WON
AGAIN!!

DUDE,
YOU
ROCKED
THAT!

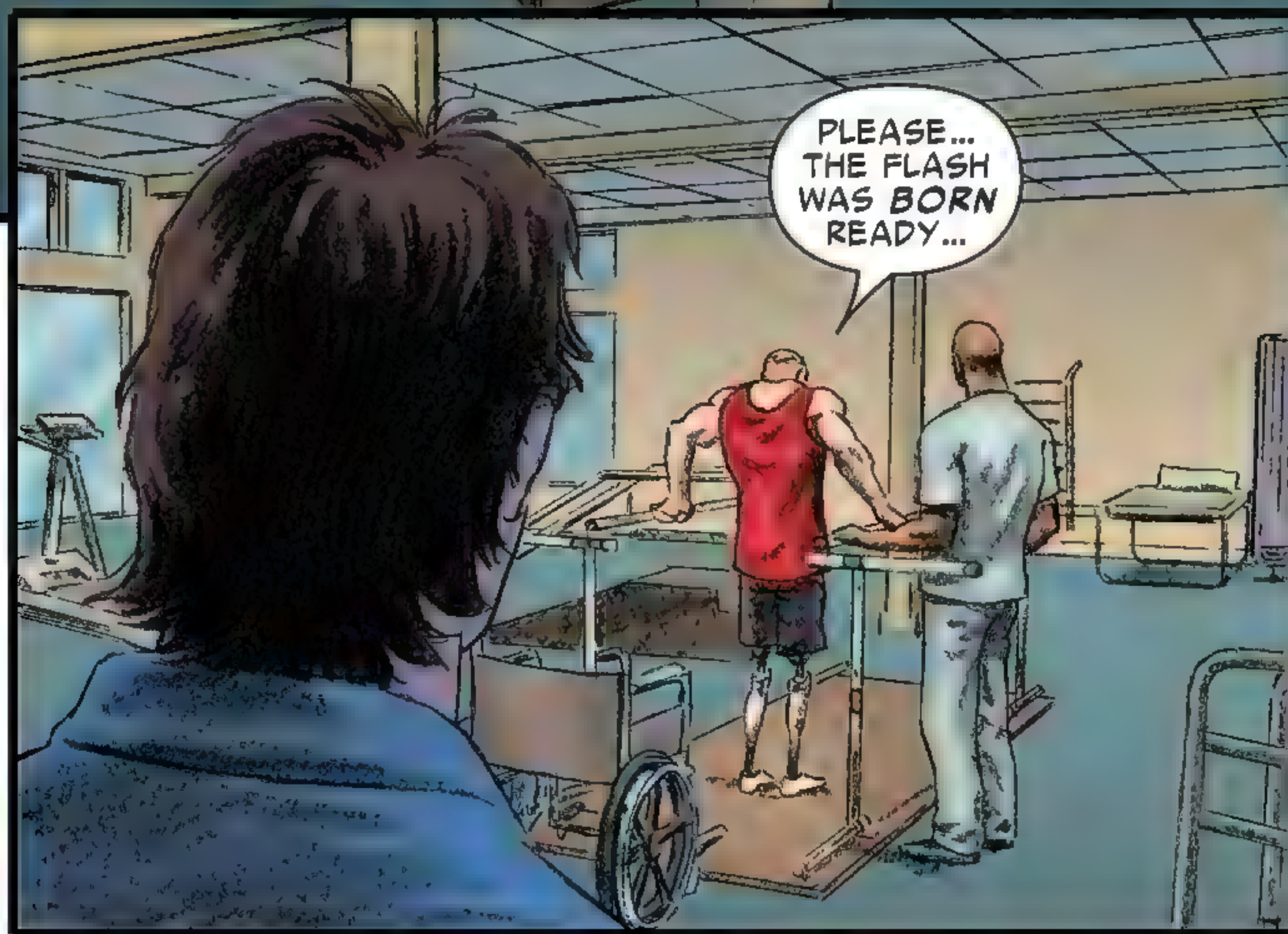
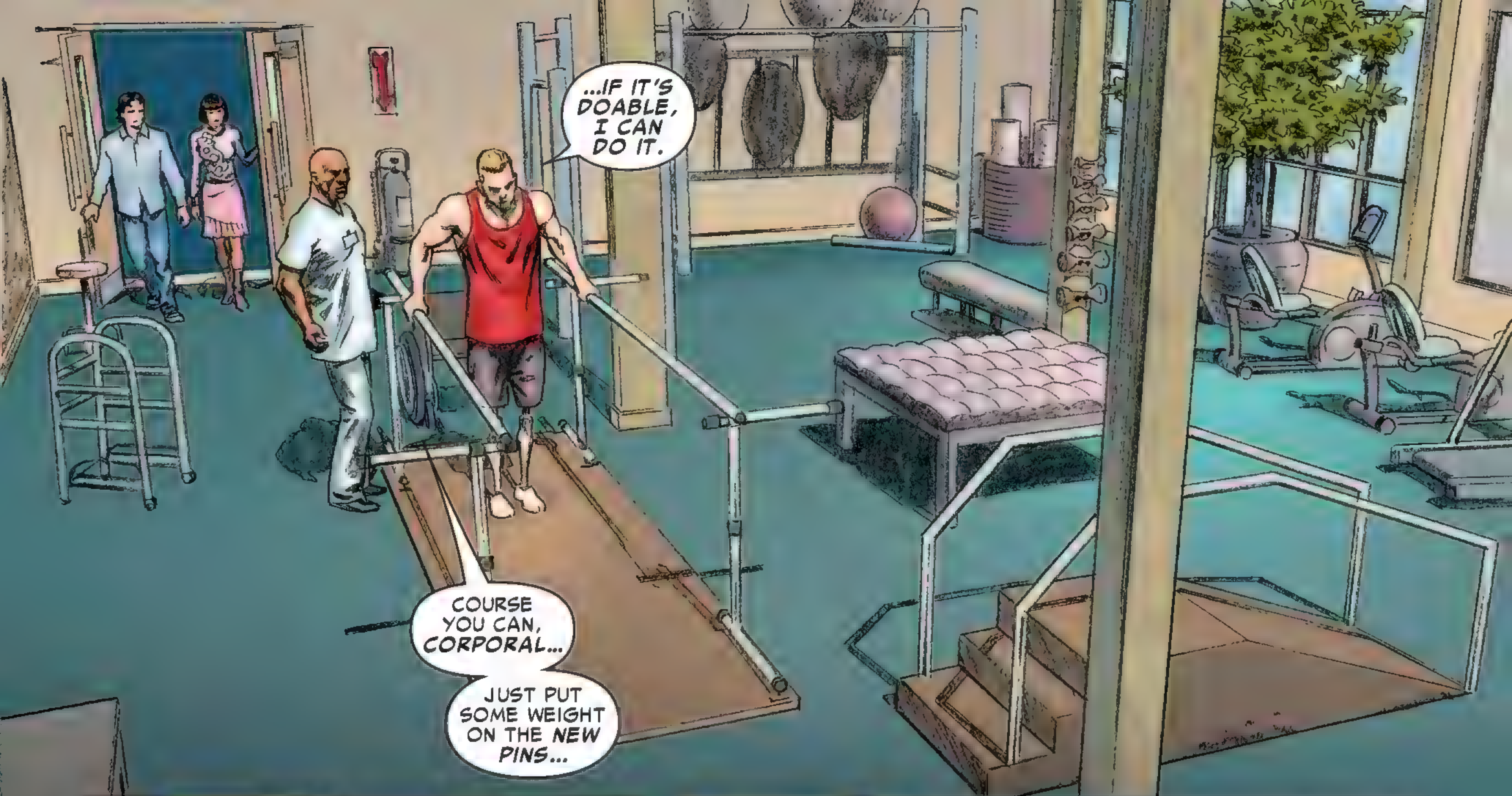
AND BETTY
TAUGHT ME HOW
TO DO ROCKIN'
FINGERS TO DRIVE
THAT POINT
HOME.

WAS
THERE
EVER ANY
DOUBT,
PUNY?

LEGS OR
NO LEGS, I'M
STILL THE
FLASH!

STAGE FIVE: ACCEPTANCE.





MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS:
STAGES OF GRIEF

**GREG
WEISMAN**
WRITER

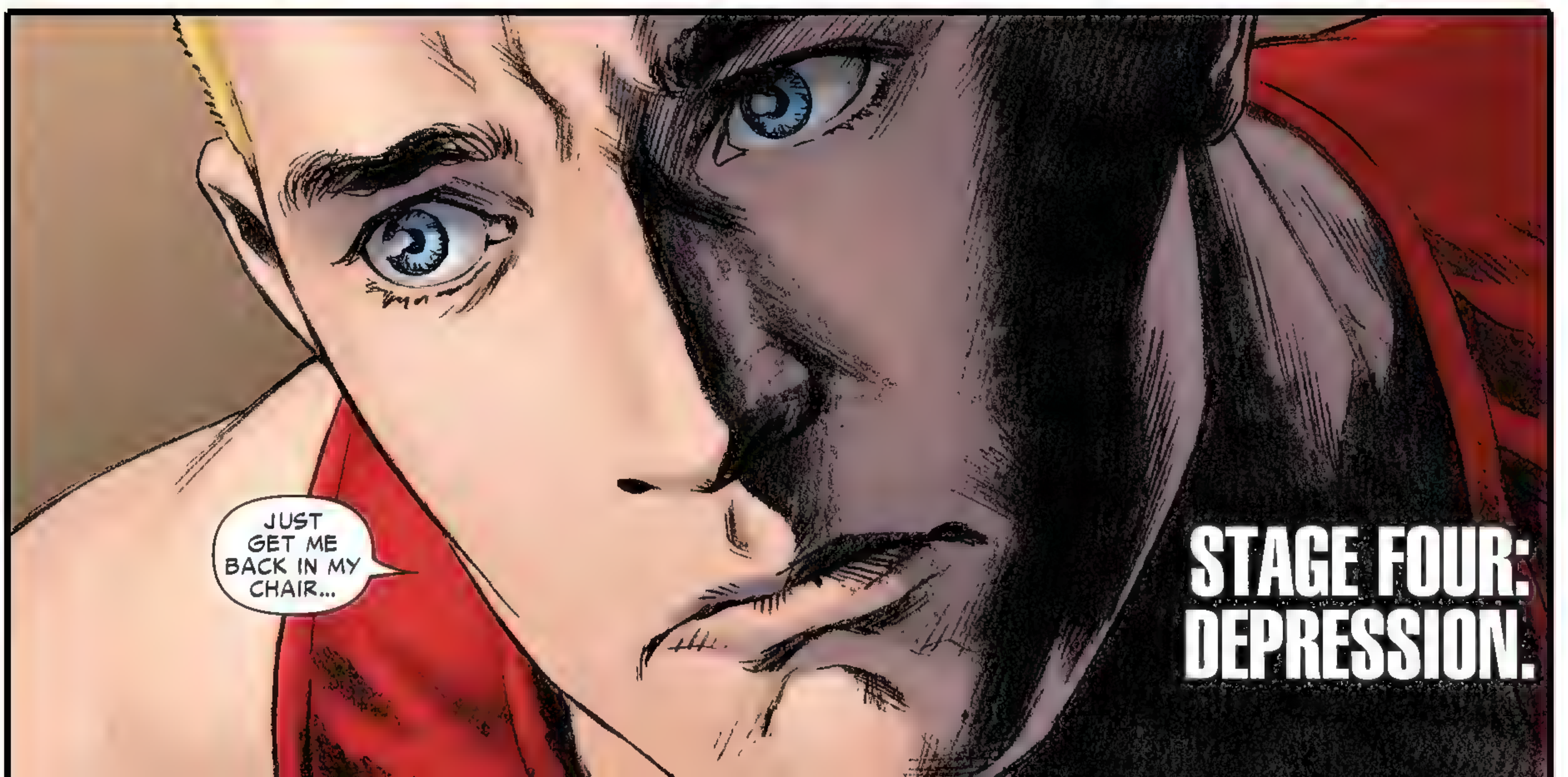
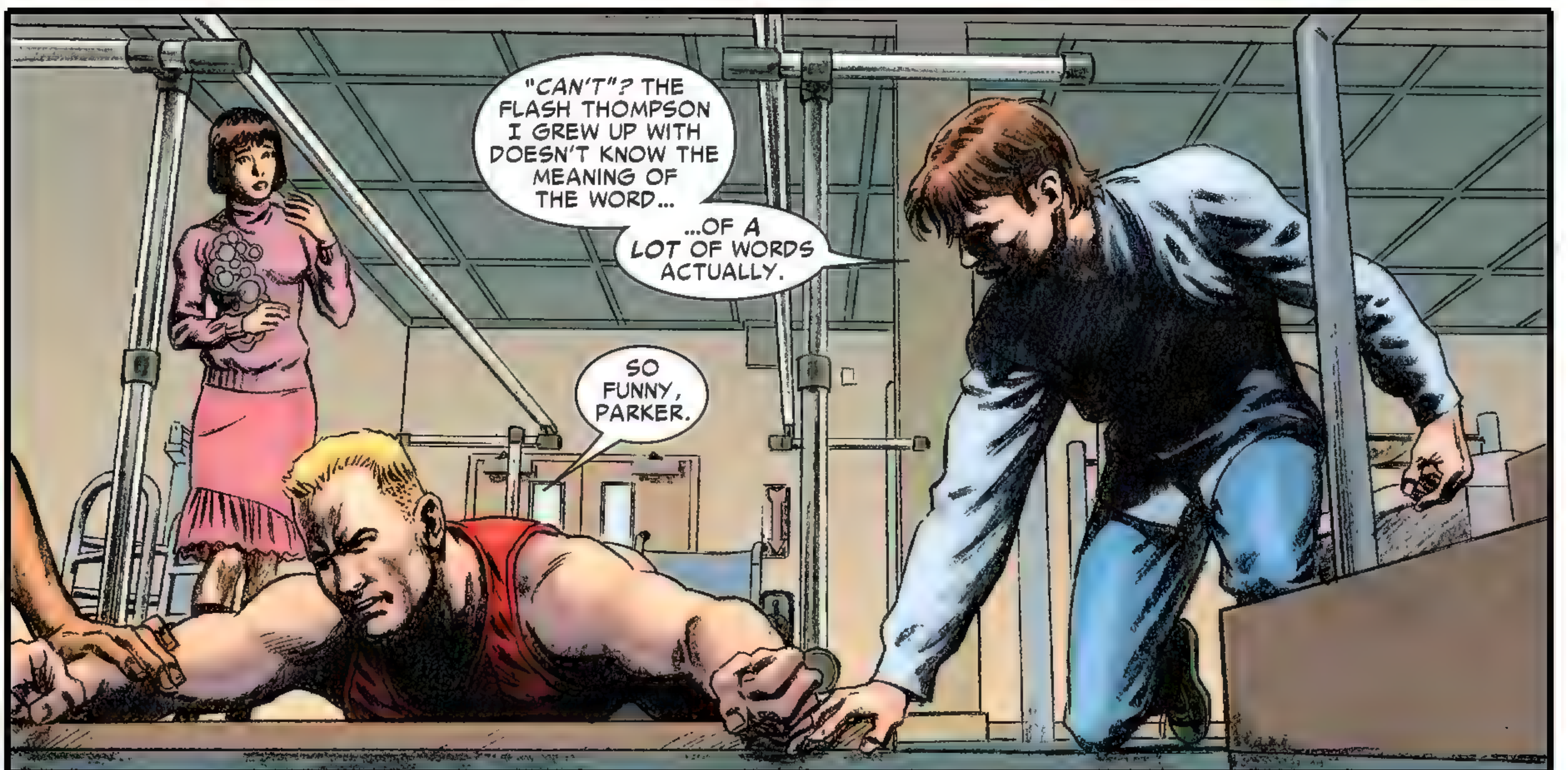
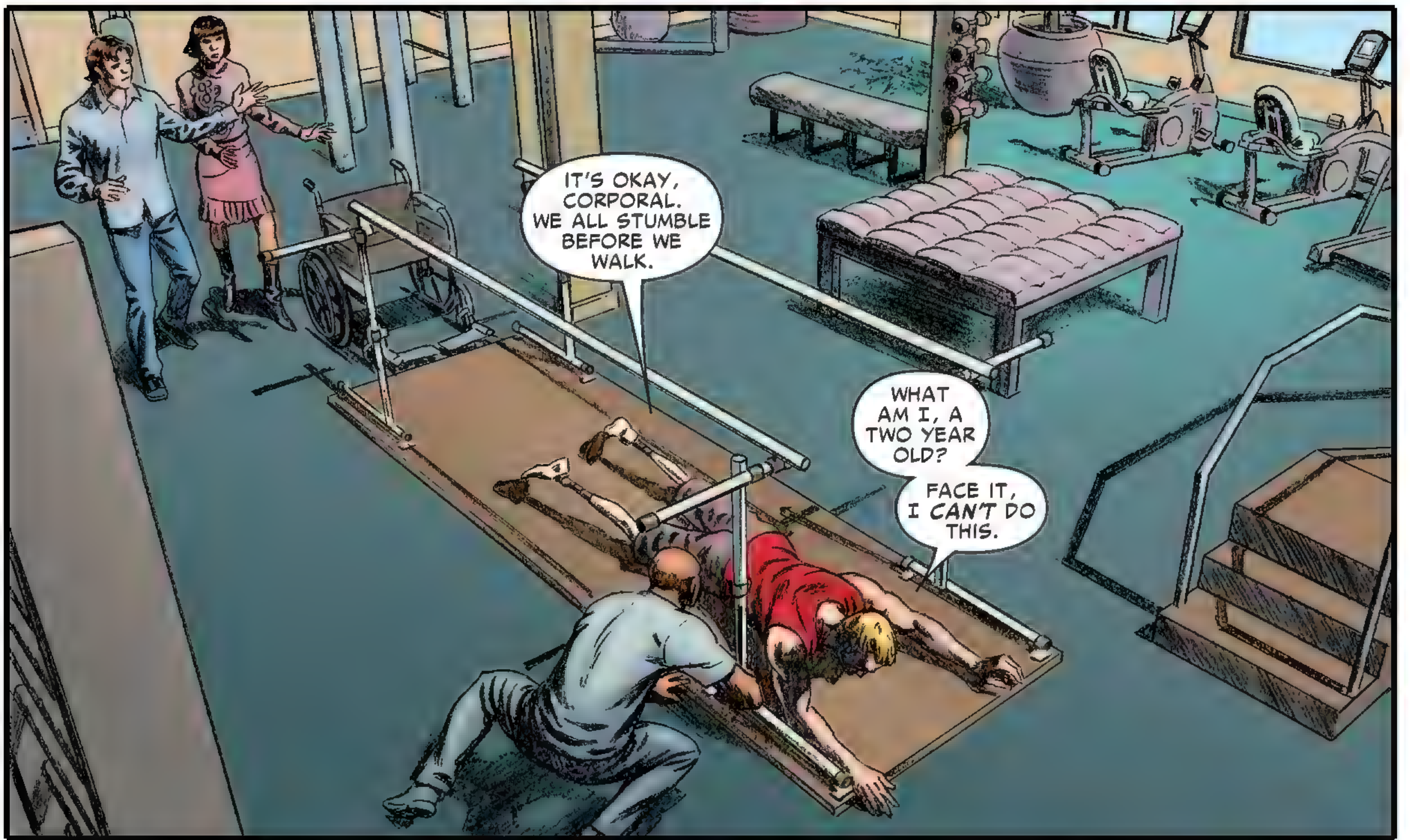
**LUKE
ROSS**
ARTIST

**ROB
SCHWAGER**
COLOR ARTIST

**VC's JOE
CARAMAGNA**
LETTERER

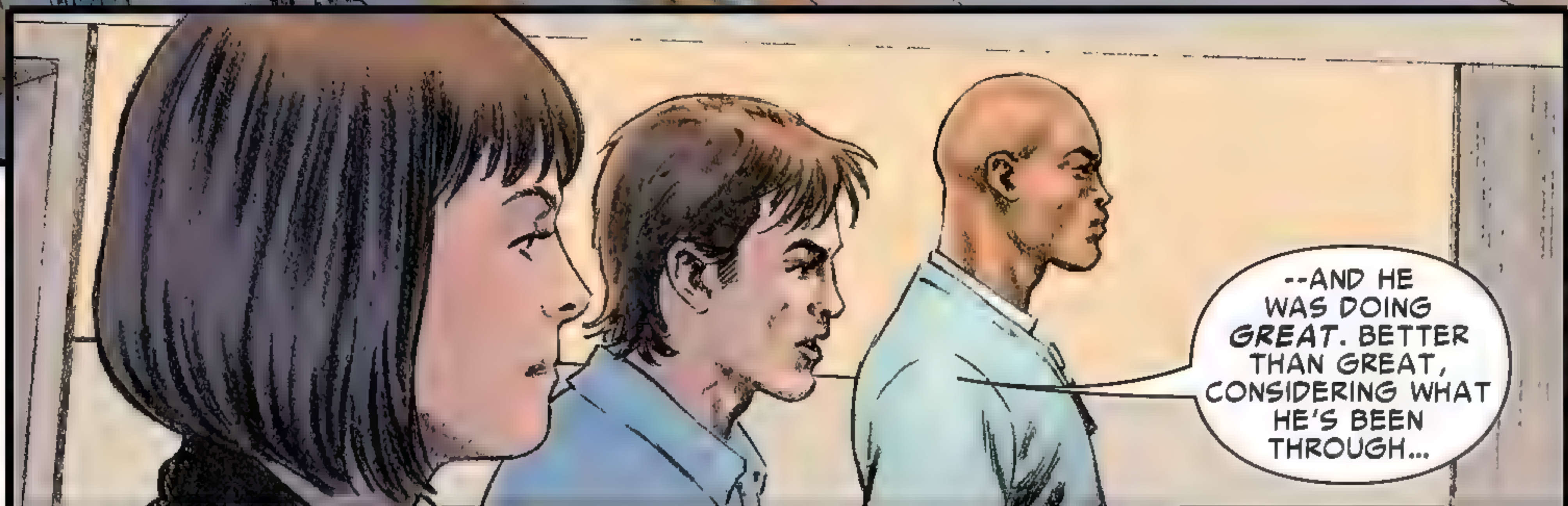
BE...?



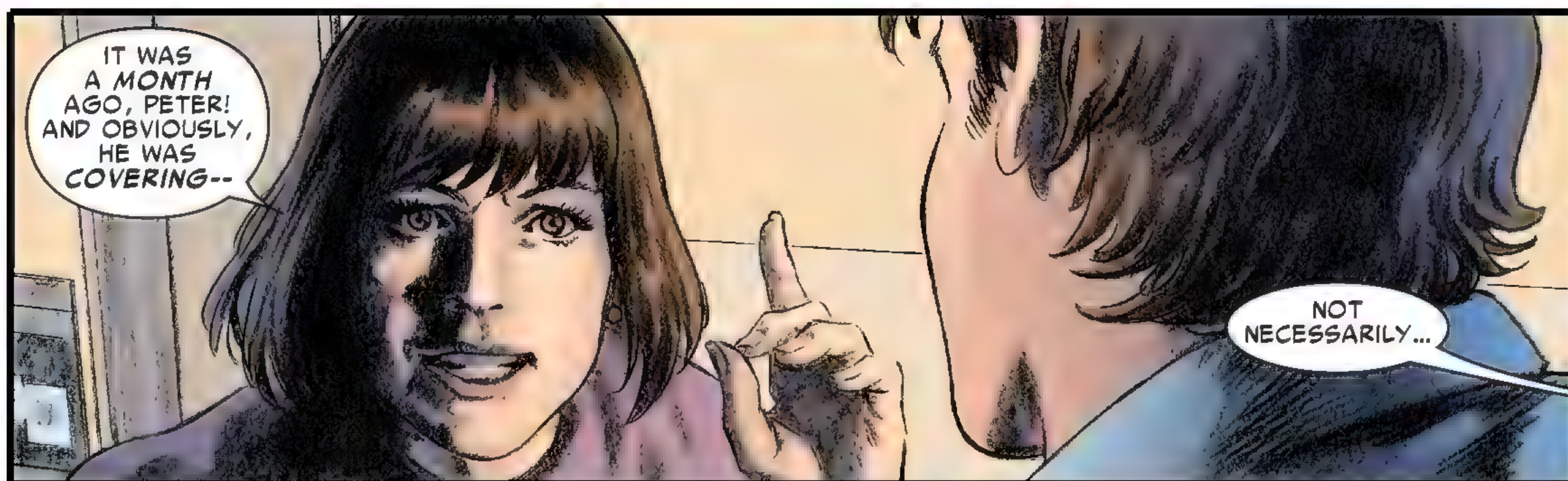




I DON'T UNDERSTAND, JEFF. I JUST SAW HIM TWO WEEKS AGO--



--AND HE WAS DOING **GREAT**. BETTER THAN GREAT, CONSIDERING WHAT HE'S BEEN THROUGH...



IT WAS A MONTH AGO, PETER! AND OBVIOUSLY, HE WAS COVERING--

NOT NECESSARILY...

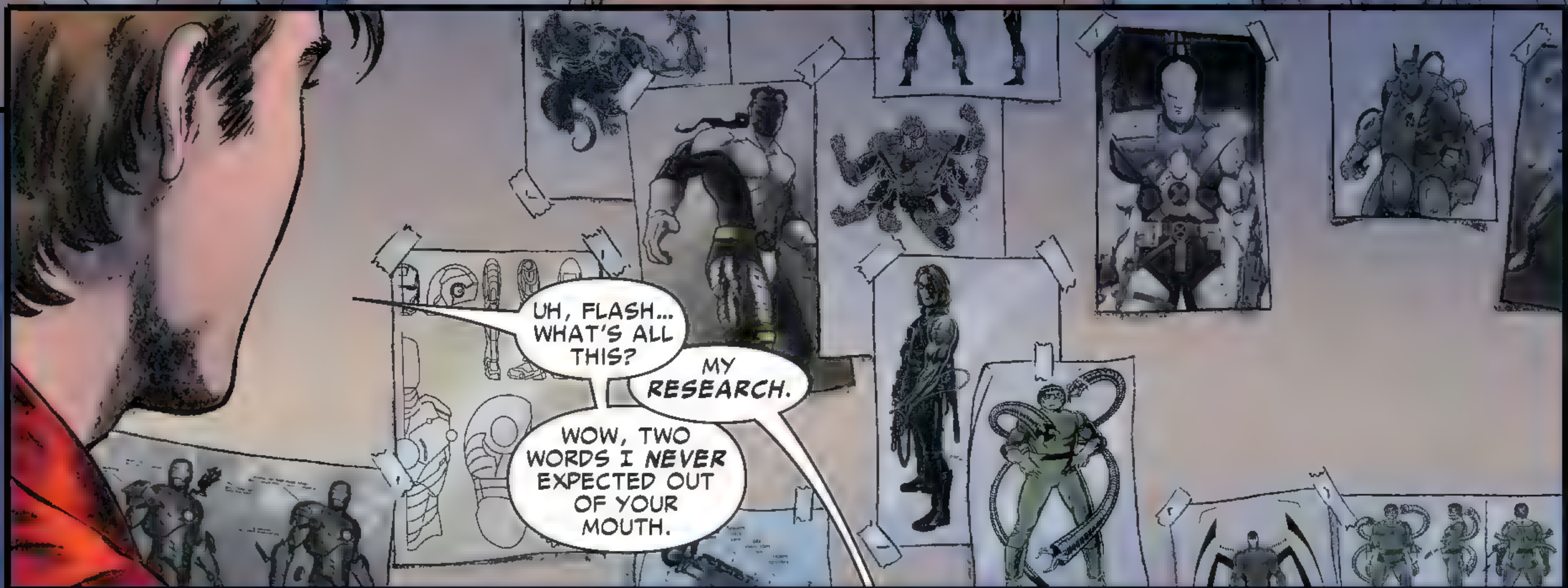


EUPHORIA HAPPENS. DEPRESSION TOO. THEY'RE PART OF THE PROCESS.



AND BELIEVE ME...IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED HERE...

...YOU CAN'T RUSH THE PROCESS.



YOU KNOW SPIDEY. HE KNOWS THE SUPER-
NERDS!

MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND.

C'MON, FLASH, YOU DON'T NEED THEM. YOUR TWICE THE HERO--



SAVE IT. YOU KNOW... HELL I KNOW... I CAN DO IT!

BEEN A HERO ALL MY LIFE! ON THE GRIDIRON! IN IRAQ!

THEY GAVE ME A MEDAL, DIDN'T THEY?! TWO MEDALS!!



SEE, I'M NOT ASKING FOR A HANDOUT!

S.H.I.E.L.D... H.A.M.M.E.R... AVENGERS...WHOEVER... THEY GIVE ME BACK MY LEGS! JUICE 'EM UP FOR ME!

AND IN EXCHANGE I'LL BE THEIR CHAMPION! A SUPER HERO!

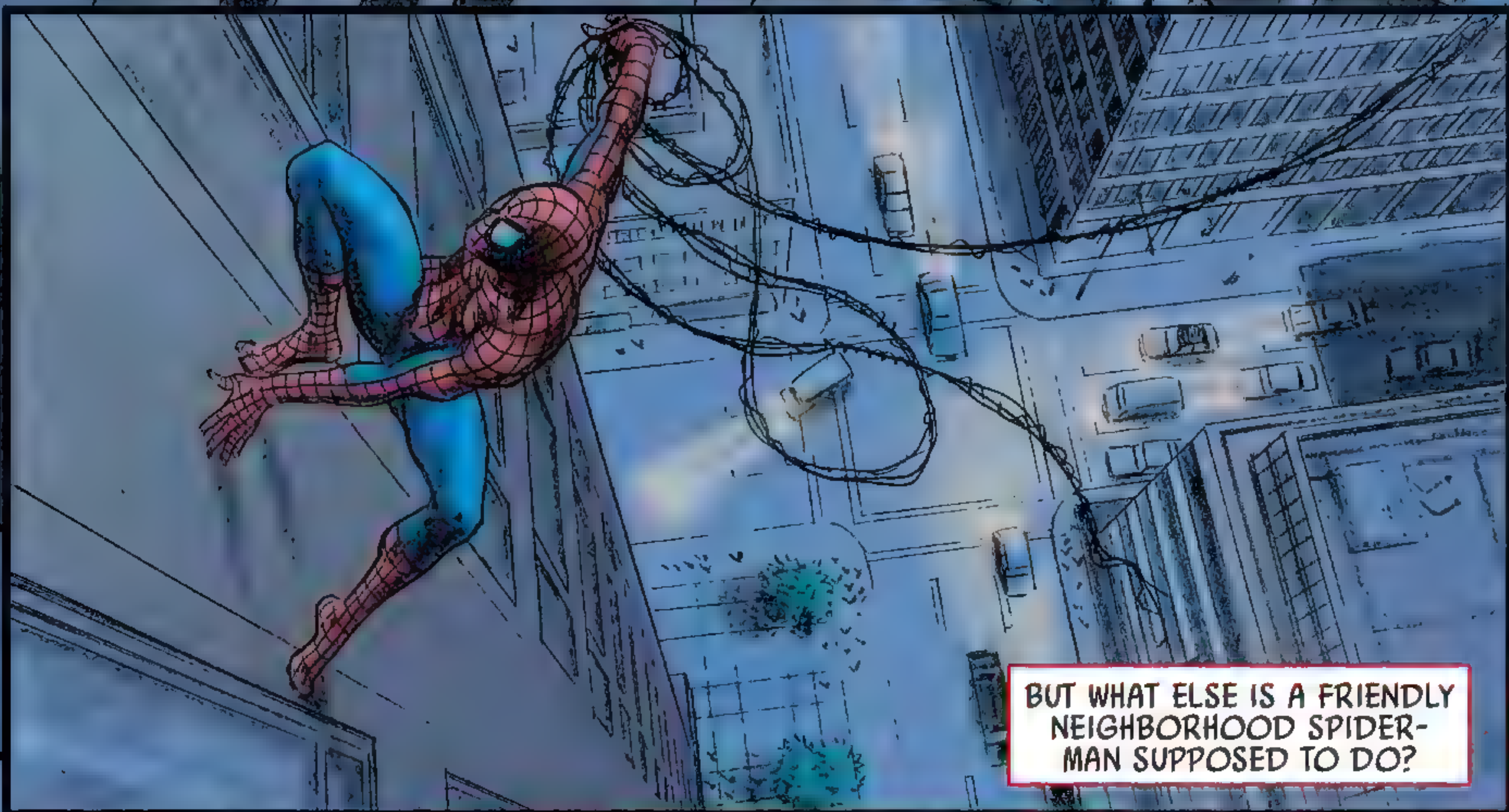
JUST TALK TO SPIDEY FOR ME!

STAGE THREE: BARGAINING.

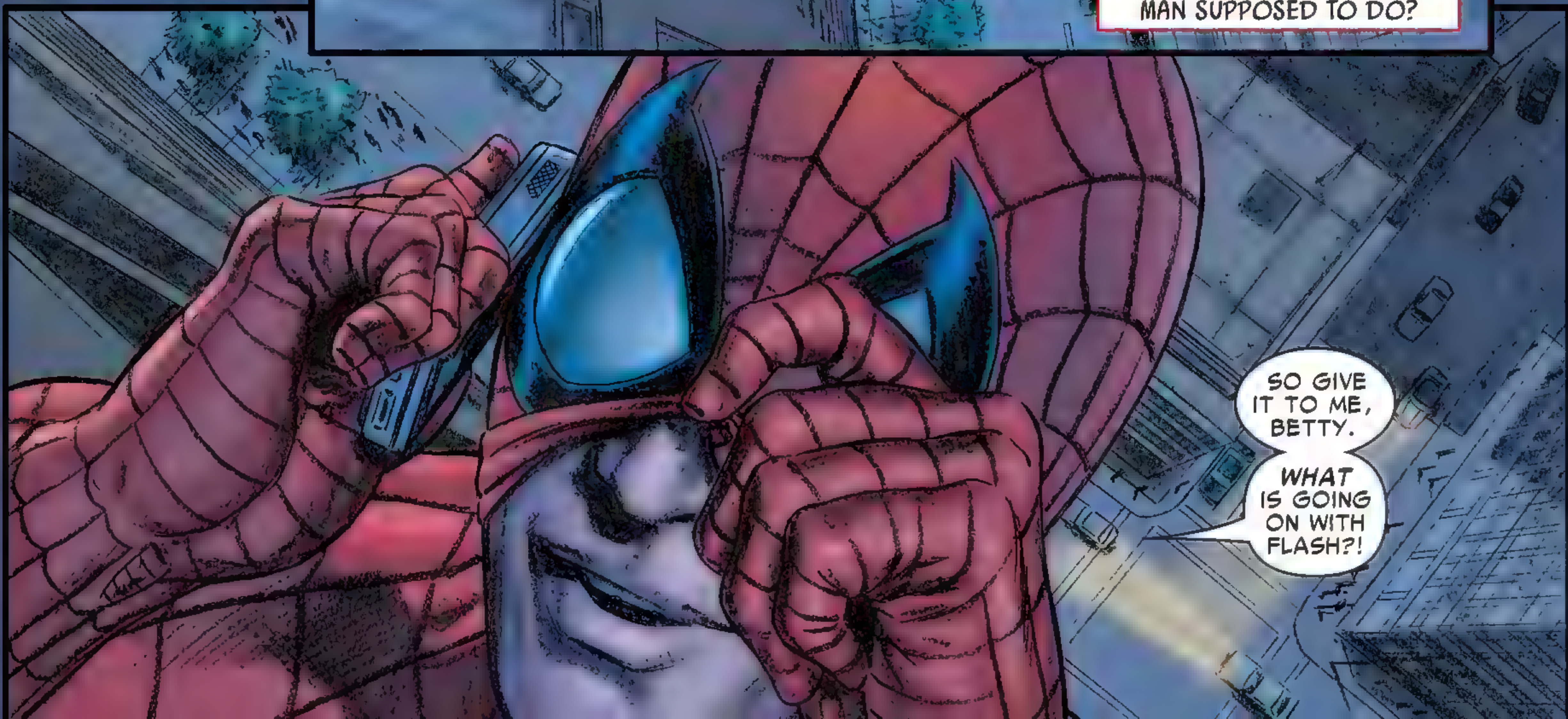


 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

TALKING TO SPIDEY WAS THE **EASY** PART.



BUT WHAT ELSE IS A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN SUPPOSED TO DO?



SO GIVE IT TO ME, BETTY.

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH FLASH?!





WELL,
WHAT DO
YOU SAY, DOC
CONNORS...?



**Phelcorp
Pharmaceuticals.**

HE'S MY...
BIGGEST FAN.
AND HE **NEEDS**
OUR HELP.

HOW CAN
YOU OF ALL
PEOPLE ASK
THIS OF ME?

YOU
KNOW IT'S
BEEN MY LIFE'S
WORK TO FIND A
WAY TO **REGROW**
AMPUTATED
LIMBS--

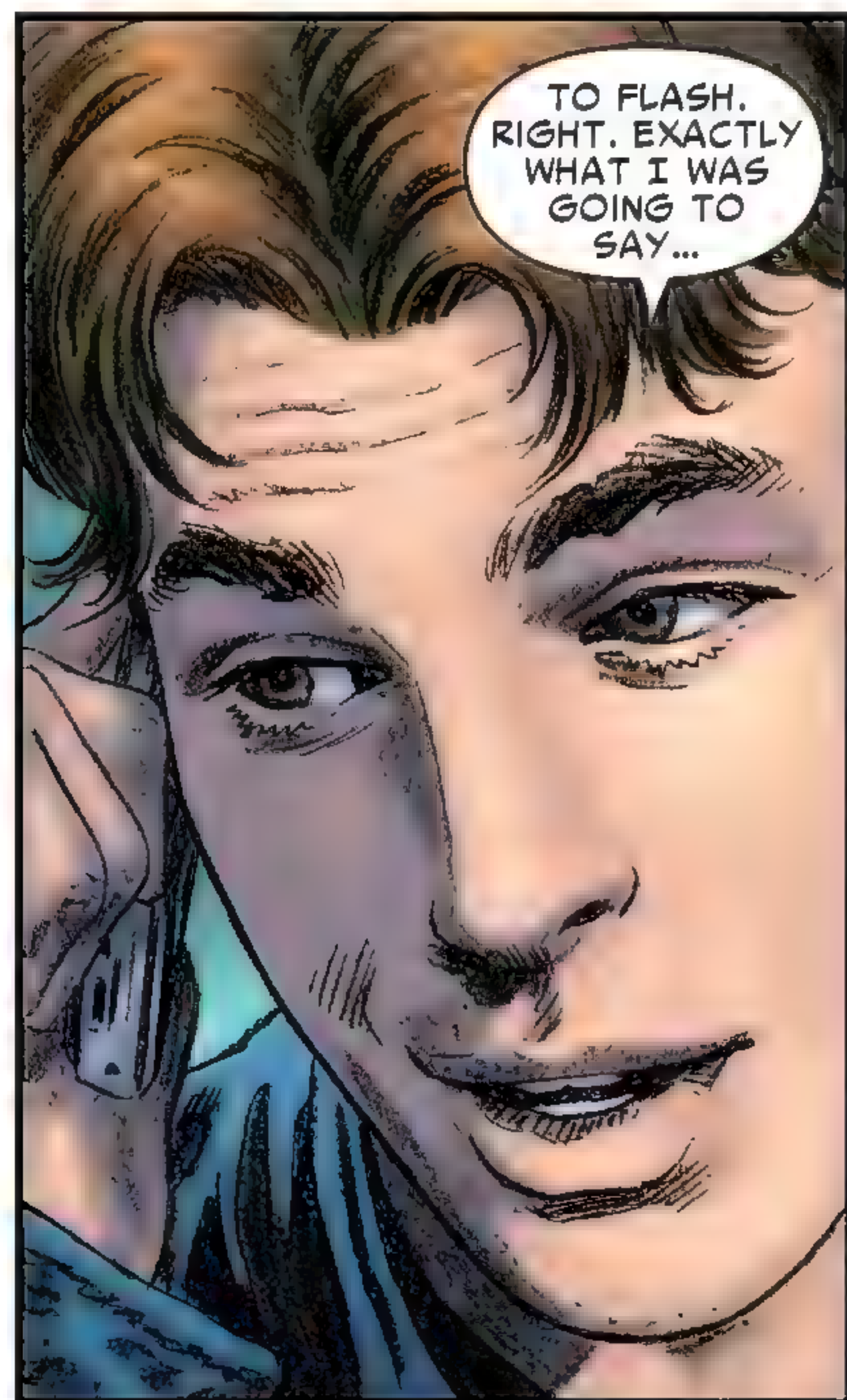
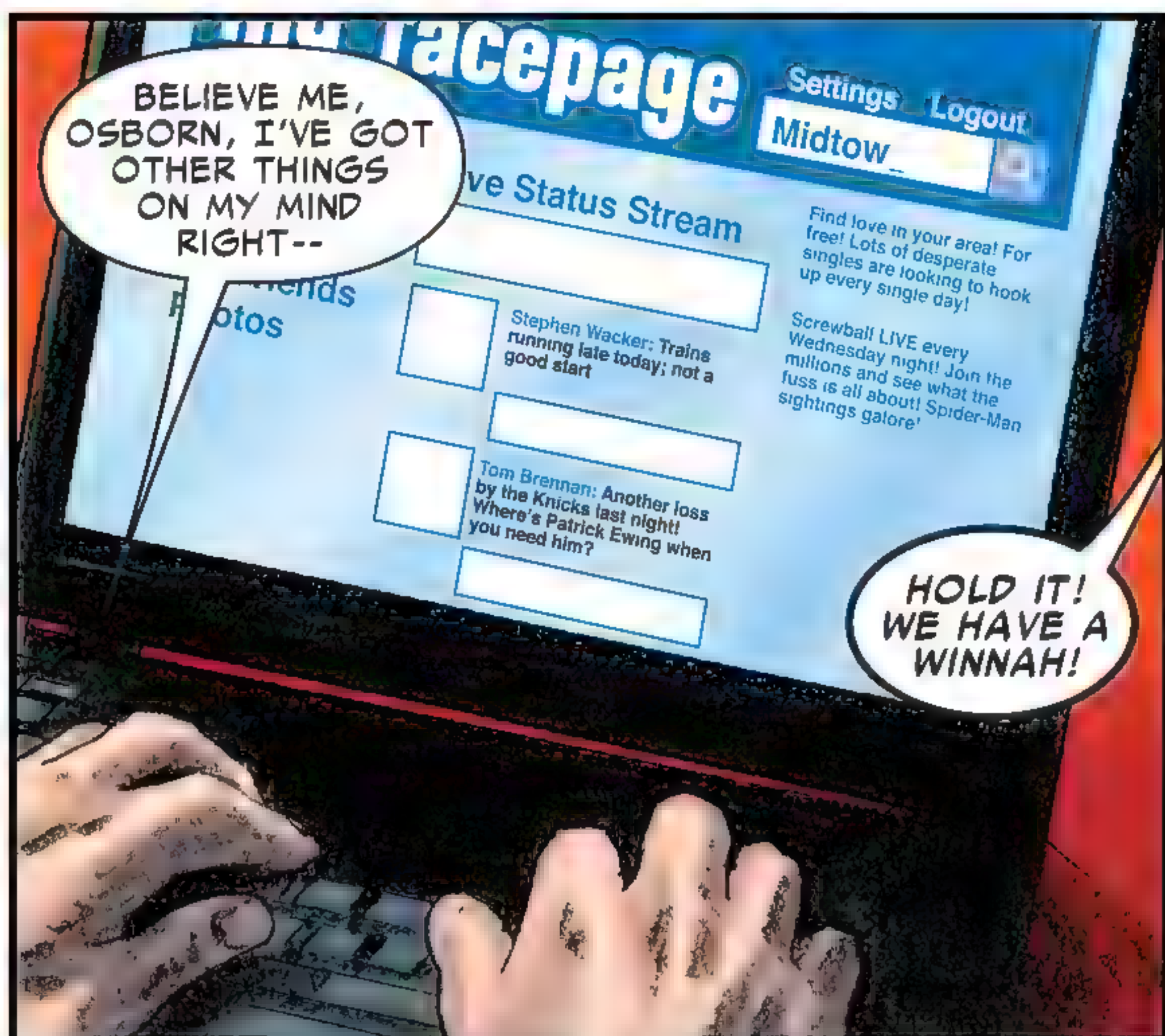


--AND YOU
KNOW WHAT
THE **RESULT**
HAS BEEN!



IT WAS NICE CATCHING
UP WITH DOC, BUT
ULTIMATELY HE'S NOT
THE BEST EXAMPLE FOR
FLASH TO FOLLOW.





Two Weeks Later...

...I TALKED
TO **EVERYONE**
I COULD
THINK OF.

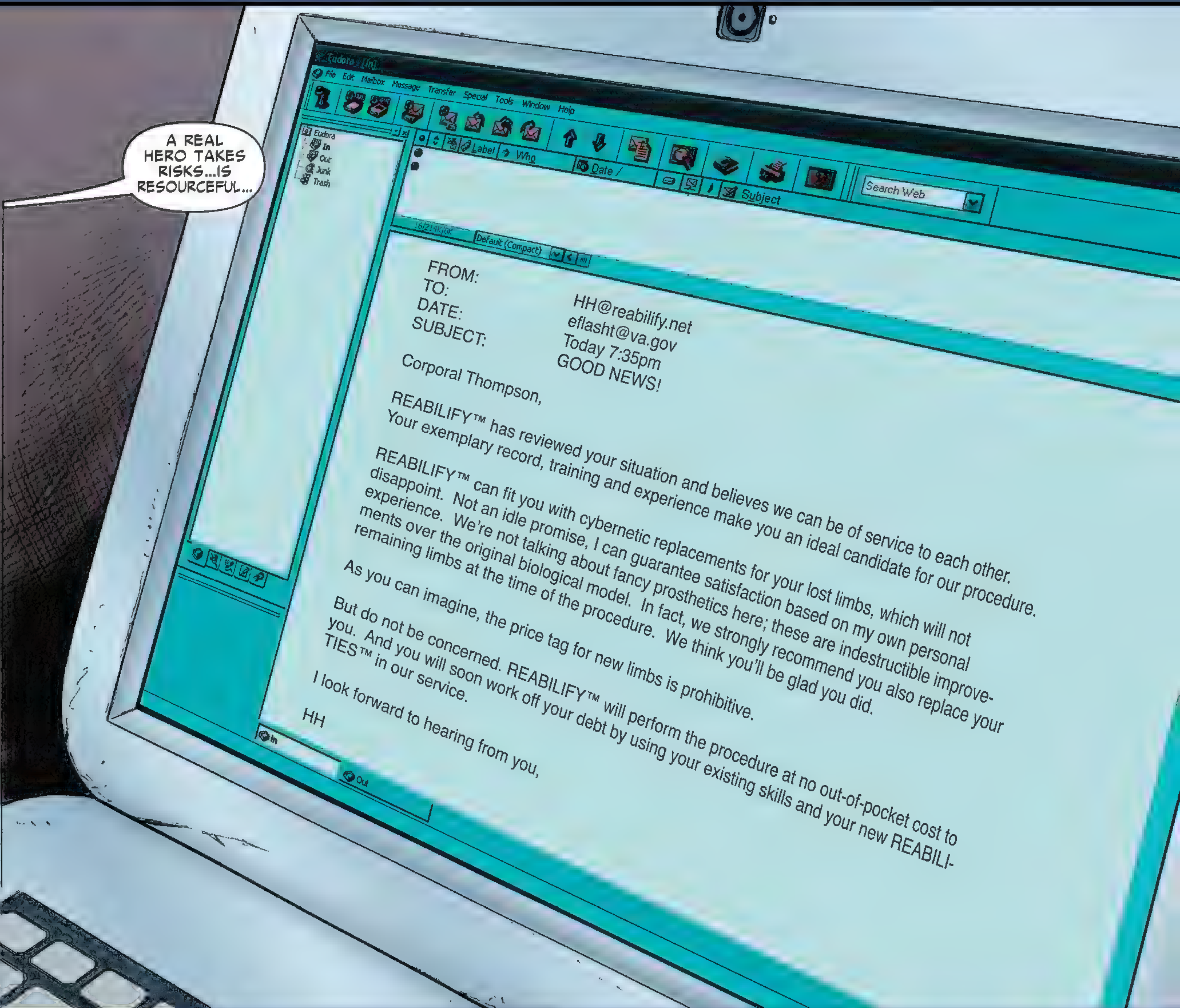
EVERYONE
WE COULD
TRUST,
ANYWAY.

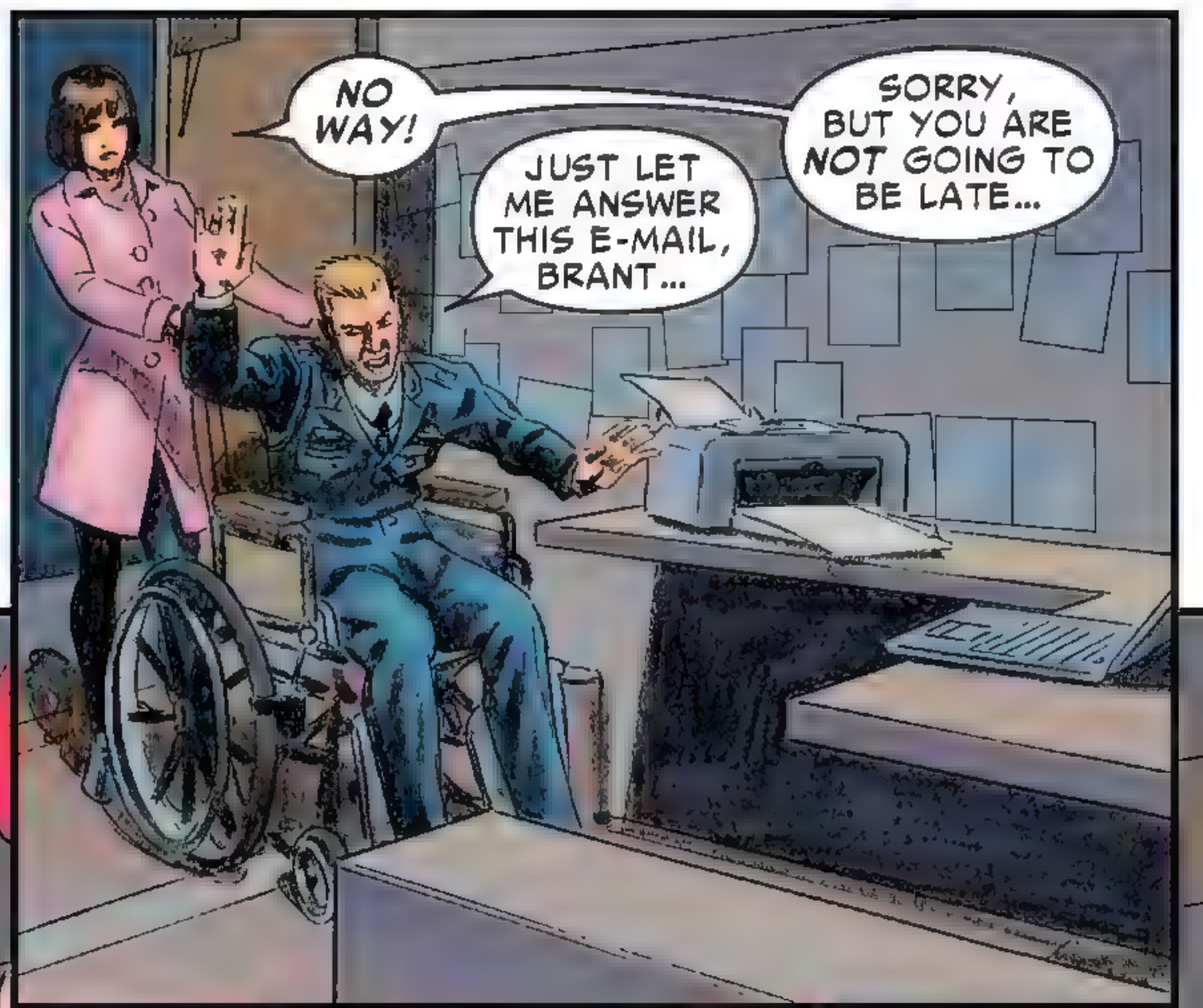
AND I
FIGURED YOU
DESERVED TO HEAR
IT FROM ME IN
PERSON. I'M
SORRY.

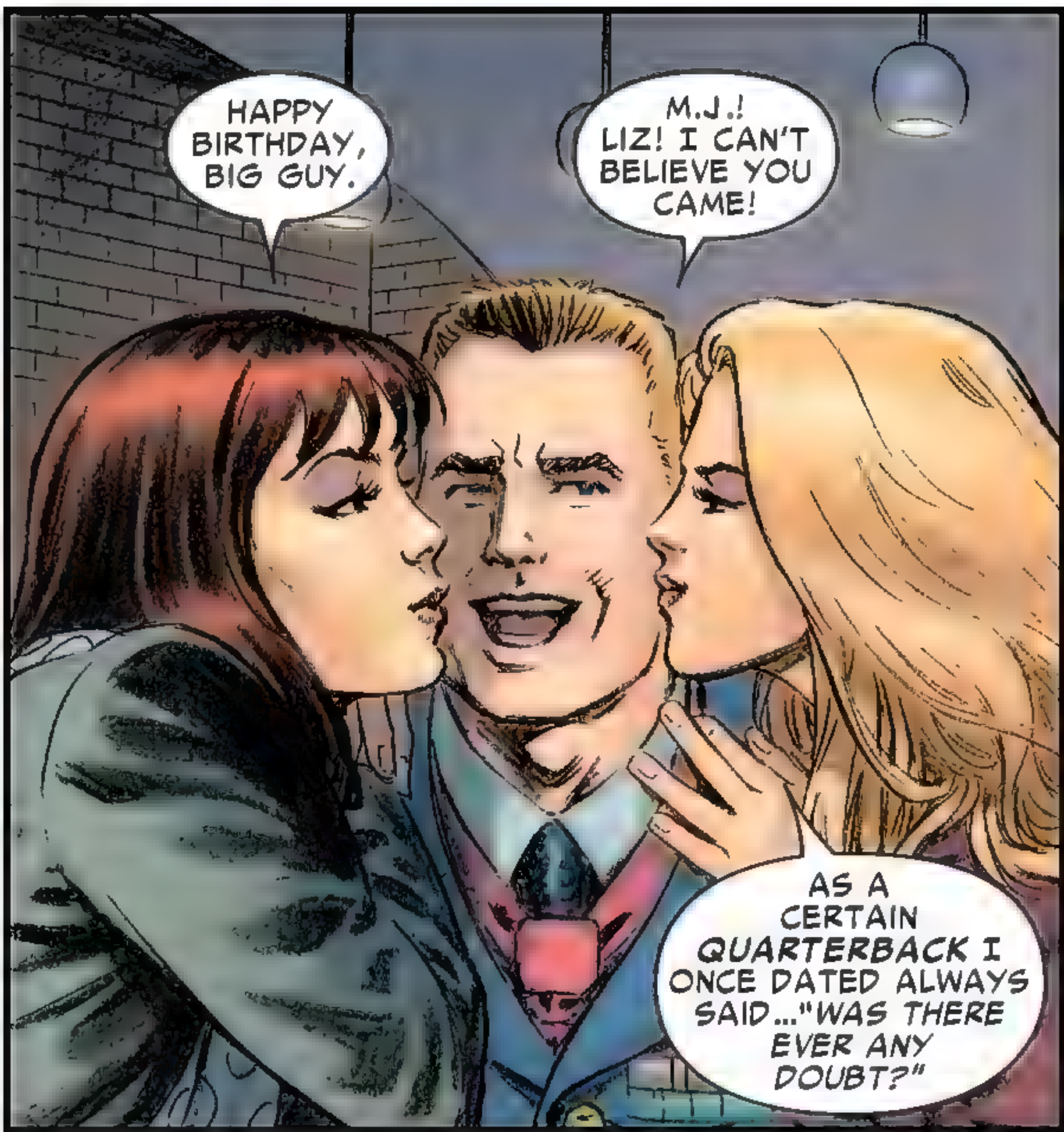
SO
CONSIDERATE.

**SO
USELESS!!!**

STAGE TWO: ANGER.







HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BIG GUY.

M.J.! LIZ! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME!

AS A CERTAIN QUARTERBACK I ONCE DATED ALWAYS SAID..."WAS THERE EVER ANY DOUBT?"



HEY, RANDY. AND JOSH...MAN, I HEARD YOU MOVED TO CALIFORNIA.

SOME THINGS ARE WORTH TRAVELING FOR...



GENERAL!

AT EASE, CORPORAL. GOOD TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT...



NOT VERY "UP." AND NOT SURE WHAT I'M "ABOUT" ANYMORE...

I CAN ANSWER THAT...



...YOU'RE "ABOUT" THE GREATEST MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

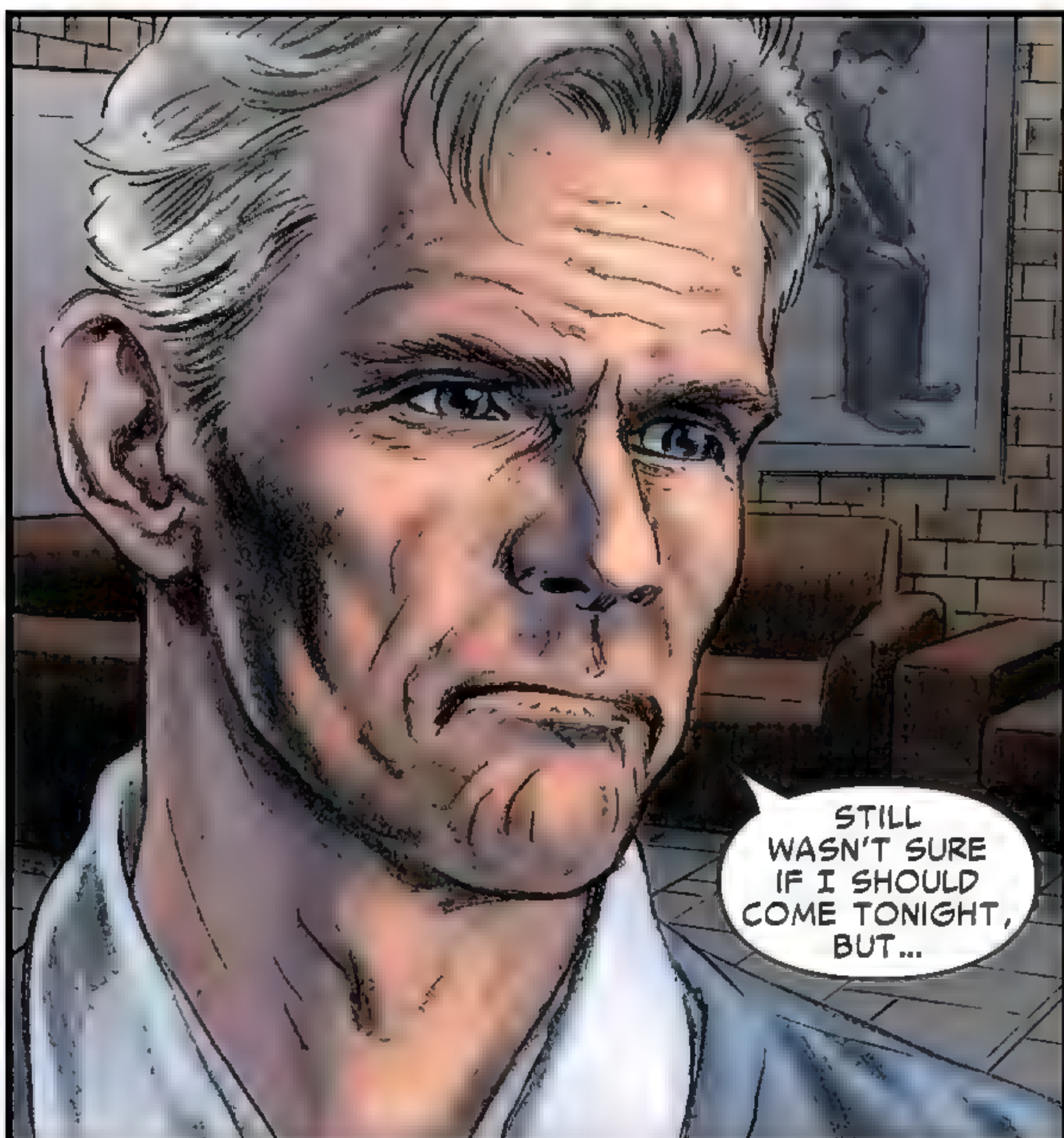
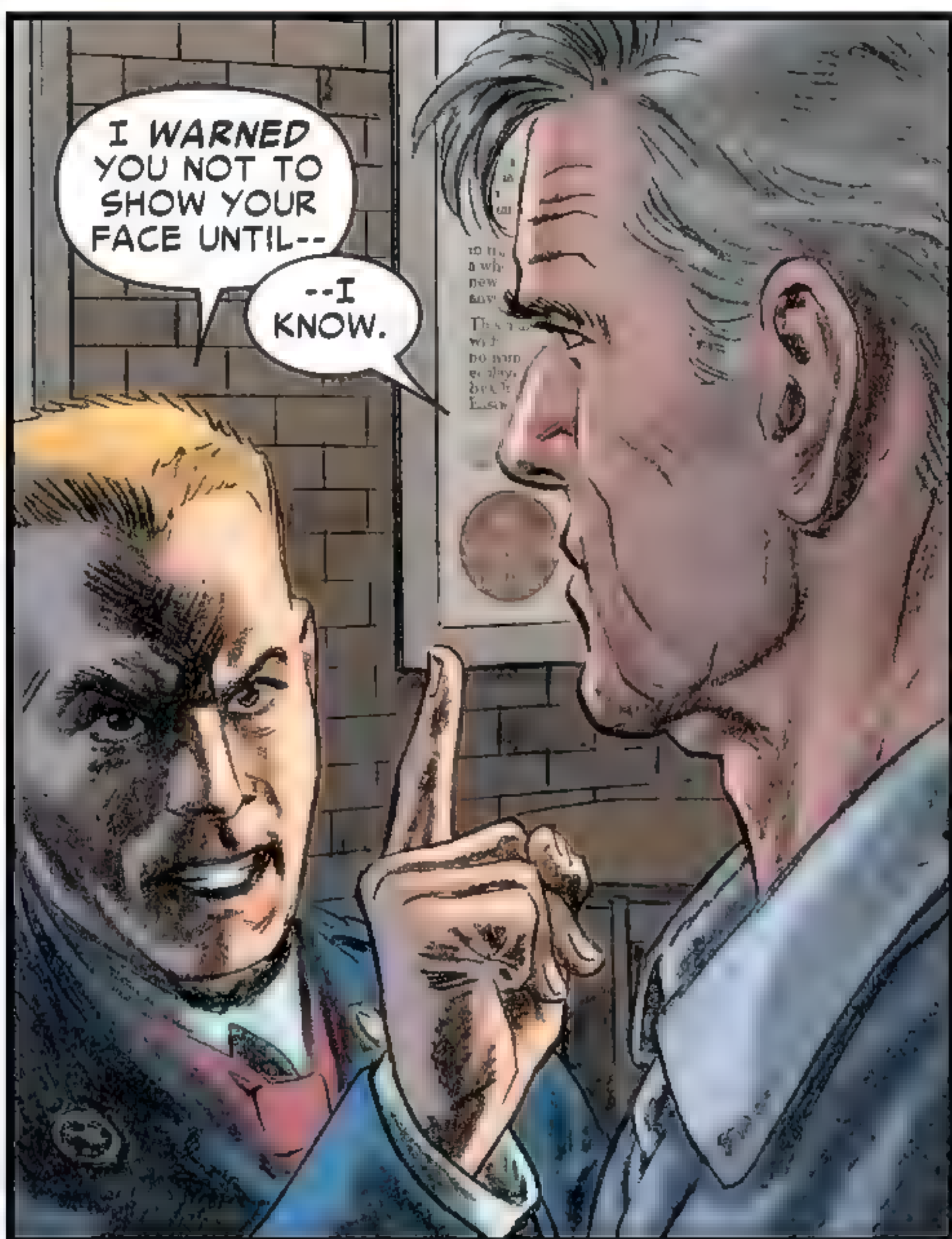
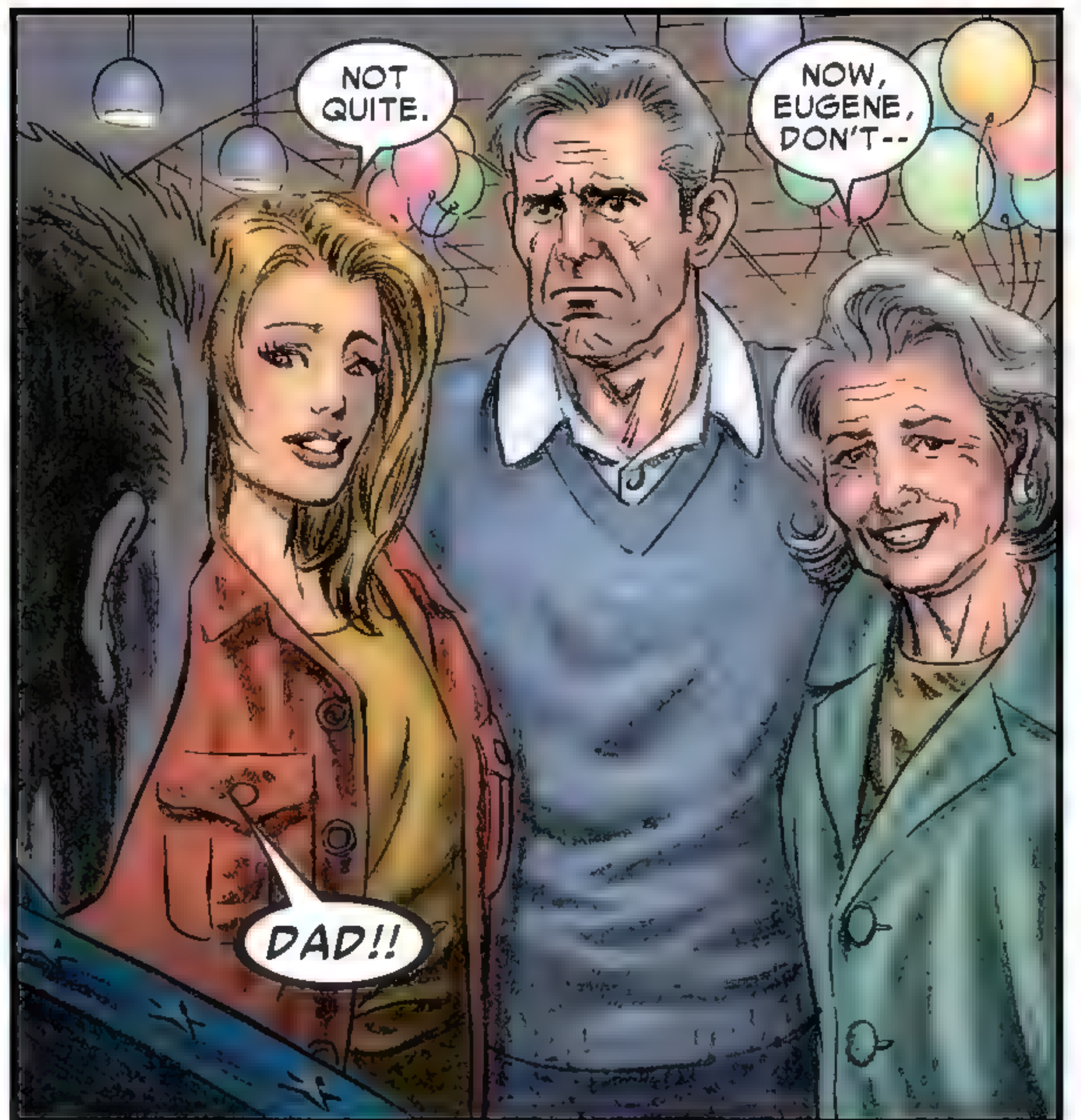
YOU SAVED MY HUSBAND'S LIFE. WE CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH.

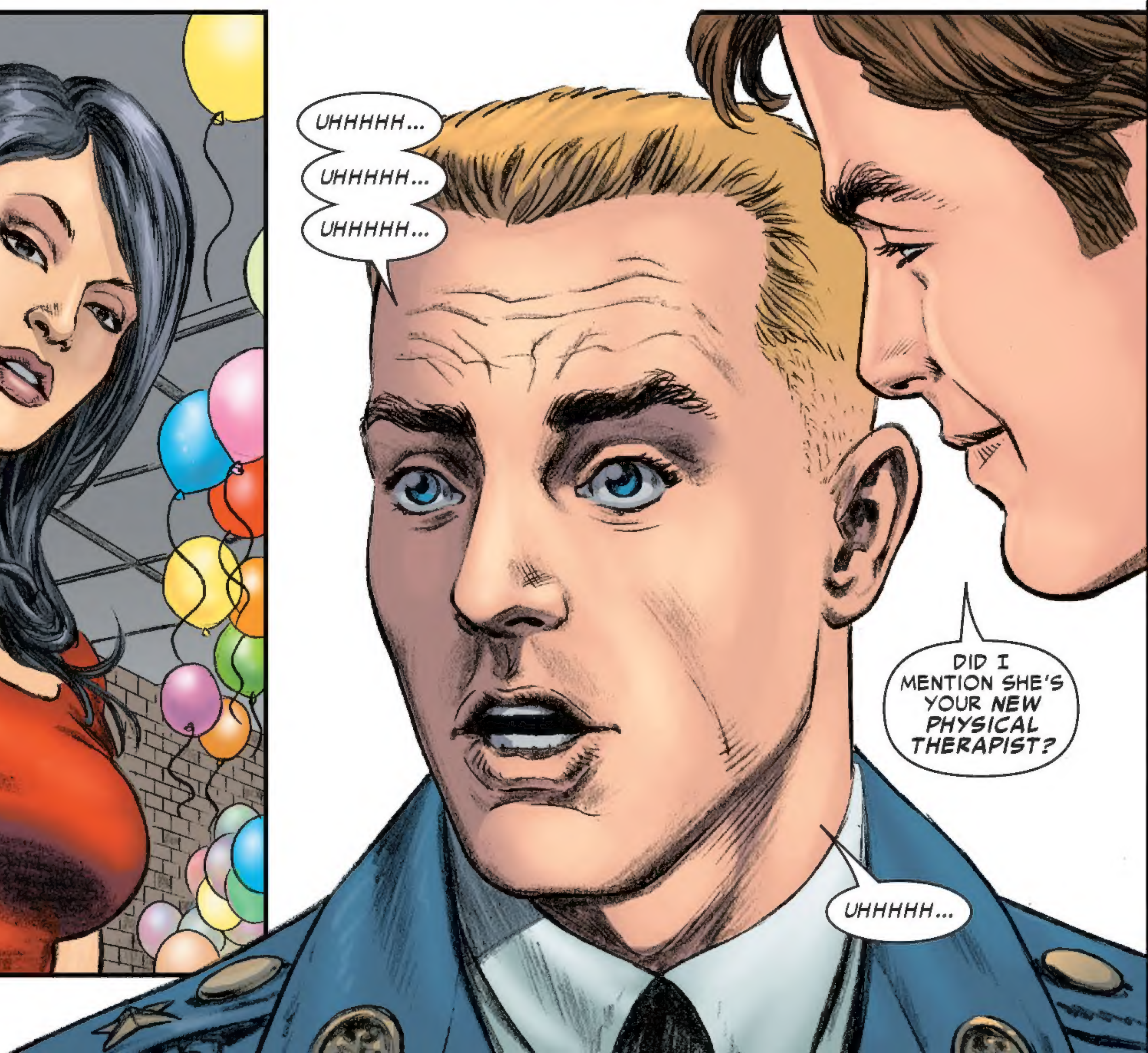
YOU DON'T HAVE TO...I MEAN...



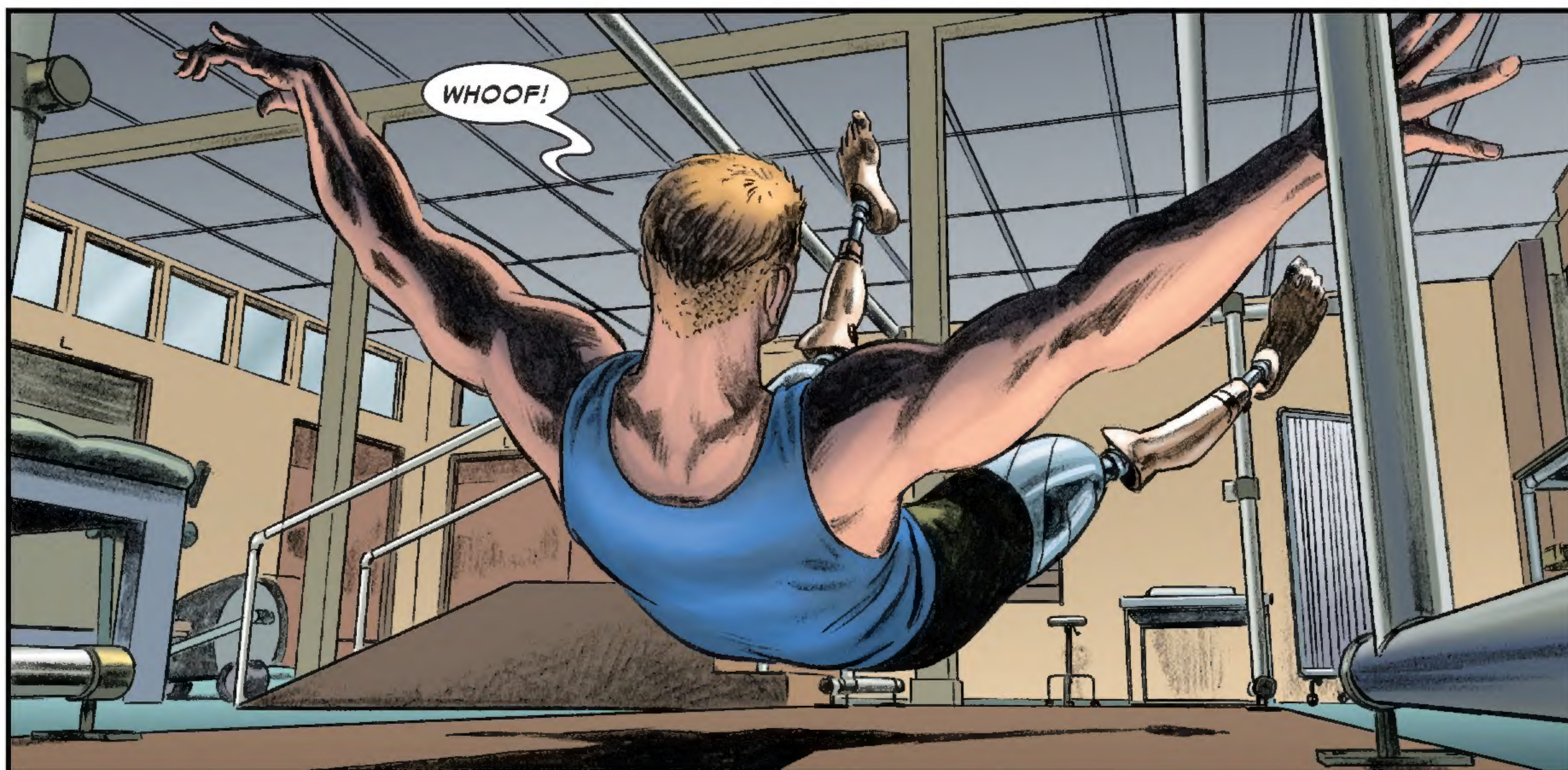
JUST SHUT UP AND SHAKE MY HAND, PRIVATE.

BEST ORDER YOU EVER GAVE.









STAGE ZERO: GRACE.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



TOM BRENNAN ASST. EDITOR **STEPHEN WACKER** EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT EXECUTIVE EDITOR **JOE QUESADA** EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER **ALAN FINE** EXEC. PRODUCER

Here we are again. Seven days older and a week wiser.

Read a lot of good comics this week including the ongoing Marvel sensation **SIEGE** (which features Spidey and his Avengers teammates in a blockbuster story featuring the final stand of Norman Osborn), the return of Steve Rogers in **Captain America** and even some strong Green offerings from the **Dandruff-y Competition** (Sorry, Tomasi...someone had to break it to ya, slappy).

Here in Spidey land we're happy to welcome back Wegular Web-Head Fred Van Lente for this issue's **Morbius** tale. You'll be able to follow Fred and Morbius in this spring's **Marvel Zombie 5** mini-series. Also we say hello to Joe Quinones who made a big splash on DC's Wednesday Comics last summer and has been drawing the beautiful variant covers for our Gauntlet stories over the last few months.

Our Flash Thompson tale has two special guests. First, from the hit Spectacular Spider-Man cartoon, we here at the Spidey desk are very happy to welcome Writer/Producer Greg Weisman. Along with Greg, we finally(!) herald the return of long-time Spidey-fan favorite artist Luke Ross, who can currently be seen in the pages of **Captain America** just down the hall. It was a pleasure to have both of these guys here. Even for just a few pages between better paying gigs!

Now, let's pick up right where we left off with a letter column cliffhanger!

When we last left Spider-Mail, a faithful reader was just about to list all the ways he disagreed with my assessments and answers to various controversial bits of Marvel trivia.

So set your enthusiasm on "feigned" and let's get into it!

Now, I feel I must respond to some statements posed by Wacker in the letter column of #613. So, as far as those "official answers"...

- "Captain America would beat Wolverine": Wrong! Hugh Jackman would absolutely beat Reb Brown!

- "Reed Richards is smarter than Tony Stark": Maybe, but book smarts only get you so far...

- "Thin Spidey webbing is better than thick": the important thing is that they're BOTH better than organic webbing!

- "Yellowjacket is better than Ant-Man": Yep, even the Rita DeMara version is better!

- "Thor is stronger than Hulk": Hulk is the strongest there is. 'Nuff said.

- "MJ is better than Gwen": Possibly, but Cissy Ironwood remains the best Spidey girlfriend ever!

- "Marvel Two-In-One was better than Marvel Team-Up": Come on! MTIO gave us The Grapplers, Sardeth and Mecha-Marauder. MTU gave us Hellrazor, White Rabbit, Frog-Man and Black Abbott--the obvious greatness of both mags makes this one a tie!

- "Alicia Masters is blinder than Daredevil": Yep, and Echo's deafer.

- "Hulk is stronger than The Thing": Hulk is the strongest there is.

- "Uncle Ben is deader than Aunt May": so were Norman Osborn and Bucky, but they both got better.

- "Secret Wars 2 is better than Secret Wars 1": you mean Secret Wars 2 wasn't some horrible nightmare I had?? Yikes!

- "The Thing is stronger than Man-Thing": Hulk is the strongest there is.

- "Flash is faster than Quicksilver": Flash Thompson?

- "Brevoort is beardier than three Vikings": Yes, but only when drawn by Walt Simonson.

Hope this clears things up.
Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go start up the Cissy Ironwood Appreciation Society.

Chris Dymmel
Macomb Twp, MI

Yeah, Chris, go ahead and start that Society! I hope you and NO ONE have a great club together! (Brennan, I need you to write me up some better comebacks. I'm running low again after that dandruff thing.)

Also, most of your answers are just wrong. They sure don't prepare ya for big city life there in Macomb Township! You must have gotten held back at **Chippewa Valley High School!** You know the Spidey fans over in **Shelby Township** are laughing at you, right? I mean you are sure no **Masiela Lusha**. (This paragraph may have been sponsored by Wikipedia).

One thing I will say, though, is that a Walt Simonson drawn Brevoort book sounds great. I'll bet it could sell in the threes! (HA! I'm back, baby!)

Hey Guys,

I am an NYPD Detective with the vice unit. One of my co-workers was telling me how he started reading ASM again after many years away and told me about the Brand New Day storyline. He showed me a few of the One More Day books that led into it, and I was hooked again.

First off, the comic is as good as ever, and I've gotten back into ASM after a very long hiatus. I haven't regularly read comics since I was a teen, but now at the age of 32, I find myself hooked again and in the process of catching up. Keep up the good work.

I was reading #587 (yes, I know I'm behind), and on page 14 and 15 -- when Vin is in the patrol car -- they get raised on the radio as "5-oh eddie", but their collar brass reads "20".

The call signs ("50-eddie", "20-adam", "13-david", etc.) are precinct sectors which radio dispatchers use to assign calls. They designate first the precinct (the number, i.e. '50') and then the sector within the precinct (the letter, i.e. 'A' for 'Adam').

The collar brass (those numbers on the jacket or shirt) indicate the precinct that the officer works in. The 50th precinct is the Riverdale section of the Bronx, and the 20th precinct would be the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

I also thought I remembered in prior issues that Vic worked in Midtown North, which would be the Times Square/Hell's Kitchen area. Hope this helps clear things up. If you ever need any help with the lingo or any NYPD stuff feel free to drop me a line.

Tim Fenfert
NYC, NY

Great to have you, Detective, and welcome back to the Spider-fold. While I didn't know exactly how the call letters worked, I did know we were taking some liberties with the precinct assignments -- which we have to do at times to avoid introducing new cops during every story.

We'll try and do better and be a bit more realistic in the future. You guys have done a heckuva a job making this great city safer than ever, so you deserve for us to at least TRY and get it right.

By the way, if there's anything I can do to get you to scare the raggedy Mets T-shirt off of Quesada on his way home from work one night, just let me know.

Hi Spidey People,

I just wanted to let you know that I have no qualms whatsoever with Peter occasionally getting tipsy and "hooking up" with women. He's supposed to be the hero readers can relate to! A guy that doesn't want to have sexual relations EVER because of the dangers of the modern era or the supposed "wrongness" of it "bugs" me (pun intended). It's unreal! Please, let Peter be a normal, dweeby guy. Don't pay attention to these lame complaining readers that want to make Peter into some kind of eunuch. We all know Pete has morals, but let's not forget that he isn't a saint. He's supposed to be flawed and, oh by the way, a normal guy! Okay...enough on that.

Totally unrelated-but-important: I appreciated the attention to detail in issue #610 when the Reilly cousins were kidnapped by that Raptor fellow. They were drawn with mascara stains running down their faces from crying. I appreciated this.

Don't be fooled, guys, I promise every designer handbag reference and mascara run is appreciated by someone out there. Me.

From a girly girl that has a designer bag, wears makeup, and reads comics,

Sara Murphy
Toledo, Ohio

Thanks for the letter, Sara. Trust me, no one knows more about runny mascara than I do. I'm also well-versed in smeared lipstick, torn pantyhose, and difficult explanations to my wife... but none of us have time right now for me to re-explain my Tuesday.

Just have faith that as long as I'm here steering the Spidey ship, you can rest assured mascara's one thing I'll get right (though I might continue to screw up police precincts.)



Outta time and space. See you in seven days for more Gauntlet clues and the secret origin of the new **VULTURE!** All by the team that brought you the very popular **Electro** saga by Mark Waid and Paul Azaceta!

Viva nothin' this week!
Simperin' Steve
2/4/10

This issue's cover by Simone Bianchi and Simone Perruzzi.

NEXT!



DEAD EYE!

Send e-mail to
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM
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